北条司

手帳はアイデアが浮かんだ時に忘れぬようメモするための漫画家には必要なアイテムだという。しかし生来のものぐさのせいか、そういうものは持ち歩かない。最近は携帯で留守電に録音したり、メール機能を利用するという話も聞く。聞いただけで面倒だ。では思い浮かんだアイデアをどう保存するかといえば、頭の中に保存するだけの話だ。でも忘れることだってあるだろ、と言われれば、忘れるようなアイデアはどうせろくなもんじゃないだろと答える。いい加減だなぁ、と我ながら思うが、どこかいい加減なところがなければ漫画稼業なんて続けられないとも思っている。

アートディレクター　福田亮一
カバーデザイン　竹内亮輔

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Angel Heart

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移植された心臓の記憶をもとに、
綾音が提供者の家族だと言う高畑。
綾音の母親に会社を案内した高畑は
自分の秘密を、綾音に打ち明けた。
死んだ姉、沙織の記憶を持つ高畑に
とまどう綾音だったが…？

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Umibozu
Ryo's close friend, an ex-killer who became a cafe owner after losing his sight.

Shin-Hon Liu
Previous member of Azure Dragon, has come to like "Glass Heart" during the training.

Kaori Makimura
Ryo's beloved partner. Passed away due to a traffic accident.

Ryo Saeba
Commonly known as City Hunter, a professional killer who mainly uses guns (cleaner of the city's dirt and rubbish). He immediately becomes aroused when he sees a beautiful lady.

Ayana Kuramoto
The sister of Minoru's heart donor. Her original name was Ayane.

Minoru Takahata
Bearing the memories of his heart transplant donor, he searches for her family.

Saeko Nogami
A high ranked police officer of Shinjuku. Is an old acquaintance of Kaori and Ryo.

The Story Thus Far

A young girl, trained into a killing machine by a certain Taiwanese organization, tried killing herself, but was revived as the organization transplanted the heart of City Hunter's partner into her body. The revived and awakened Glass Heart, being affected by the heart's memory, left the organization and was lured to Shinjuku, where Ryo is.

After acquiring the name Shanin, Glass Heart began the job of City Hunter.

The request that Takahata issued was to find the family of his heart donor. According to the memories of his heart, it was revealed that Ayane was a member of the family. Attaching himself to her, he lies about her being his secretary, and brings her mother for a tour in the company. Takahata finally reveals to Ayane his secret.

Shanin (Glass Heart)
A young girl trained into a killing machine by the organization. Left the organization after getting the heart transplant of Kaori (who passed away in an accident).

Chapter 133 Dangerous Heart Operation

SAORI'S HEART?
THE PATIENT RECEIVING THE HEART DOESN'T KNOW THE DONOR'S DETAILS.
IT'S THE SAME FOR THE DONOR FAMILY, THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIND YOU.
...

...
...
...!
...!
SAORI!

THE HEART RECOGNIZED AND CALLED OUT FOR YOU.
AFTER SEEING YOU, MY HEART HAD A REACTION!
BUT THAT NIGHT WHEN WE MET...
I'M SORRY ...
SAORI.
AYA...
SIS...

AYANE-SAN!?
SAORI

EIYAAAAAAA!
STEP SO STEP ...
SO STEP SO ...
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
PNEUMONIA!?

IT LOOKS SERIOUS... HE'LL BE ON SURVEILLANCE THESE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.
YEAH... THEY SAY THE TRANSPLANT BACK THEN WAS ALREADY PUSHING IT.
DOES THAT MEAN... MR. TAKAHATA AND THE HEART'S COMPAT-IBILITY...
REALLY, THAT IDIOT... HE KNEW SOMETHING'S WRONG... YET HE STILL KEPT IT TO HIMSELF.
MAYBE THAT'S THE REASON HE STARTED LOOKING FOR THE DONOR...
THAT MEANS TAKAHATA-SAN'S IMMUNE SYSTEM IS PRETTY BAD THESE COUPLE OF YEARS HE HAS BEEN HOS-PITALIZED MANY TIMES DUE TO INFECTIONS.
THAT'S WHY IN ORDER TO STOP THE BODY FROM REJECTING IT, HIS DOSES OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSANT ARE MANY TIMES MORE THAN YOURS.
IT SEEMS THE IMMUNOSUPP-RESSANT'S SIDE EFFECTS ARE WORSE THAN WE IMAGINED.

...
HOPING THAT BEFORE HE'D DIE HE'D HAVE THE CHANCE TO SAY THANKS . THAT MUST HAVE BEEN HIS REASON.
HE MUST HAVE KNOWN HE HAS NOT LONG TO LIVE...
IT IS REALLY INCONCEIV-ABLE... HE'S SO MUCH LIKE SAORI .
PROTECTING AND THINKING OF OTHERS...
SAORI'S HEART HAS BEEN GIVEN TO TAKAHATA.
任大理部
付属

AYA—SHE ALWAYS BLAMES HERSELF FOR KILLING SAORI.
...
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THEIR HOLIDAYS, WE COULDN'T TAKE THEM OUT FOR FUN... WE WERE TOO BUSY WITH WORK.
BOTH OF THEM WENT OUT FOR HIKING
THAT DAY
MAYBE THAT'S WHY THE BOTH OF THEM
HA HA HA
EEEA

LET'S GO TO THAT SANDBANK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER
SAORI!
EH ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS?
DON'T WORRY, THIS RIVER IS PRETTY SHALLOW
BUT THEY DID NOT KNOW THAT A DAY PRIOR TO THAT, DUE TO HEAVY RAINS, THE UPPER PORTIONS HAD RISEN SUDDENLY...
CAUSING THE DAMS TO BURST.

SAORI!
SAORI ...!
FORGIVE ME...!
FORGIVE ME...
HIII H!

THE REASON AYA HAD TO LOOSEN HER GRIP...
IS BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO LIVE.
SHE KEPT BLAMING HERSELF... BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE SHOULDERED BY US, HER PARENTS...
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE TOLD HER IT WAS AN ACCIDENT... ALL IT DID WAS FURTHER ADD TO HER DEPRESSION.
SHE WOULD ONLY WISH FOR EVERYBODY TO LEAD HAPPY LIVES...
I DON'T THINK SAORI'D HOLD ANYONE RESPONSIBLE.

YOU'RE SAYING HE KNOWS MY PET NAME AND HABITS BECAUSE OF THAT?

THEN SHE MUST STILL REMEMBER ME NOT SAVING HER.
IS THAT HOW YOU FEEL...
OF COURSE, EVERYONE'S NOT THE SAME, BUT...
ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE A HEART TRANSPLANT TRULY INFLUENCED BY ITS PAST?
IF YOUR SISTER THOUGHT THAT WAY, THEN MR. TAKAHATA SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED TRYING TO THANK THE DONOR'S FAMILY, RIGHT?
...
DON'T YOU THINK SHE INFLUENCED HIM THAT WAY BECAUSE SHE WANTS EVERYONE TO BE HAPPY?
THERE'S THIS GIRL FROM TAIWAN WHO RECEIVED A HEART TRANSPLANT,
AND WENT TO SHINJUKU TO FIND A COMPLETE STRANGER.

SINCE THE HEART STILL HAD STRONG FEELINGS FOR THE MAN THE WOMAN ONCE LOVED THE GIRL COULD ONLY FOLLOW SUIT
THE TRANSPLANT ORIGINALLY BELONGED TO A WOMAN WHO LIVED IN THAT PLACE
AFTER ALL, THAT GIRL IS ME!
YOU REALLY CAN MAKE UP STORIES...
ALL OF IT IS TRUE
FINALLY THEY WERE ABLE MEET
...

LOOK...
...
WHY DON'T YOU GO AND ASK IF SHE REALLY DOES HATE YOU?
ASK THAT HEART OF HIS...
...

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
...
...EEP
BEEP
...
SAORI
...
SIS... ARE YOU REALLY THERE?
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

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QC: MIYAGICE
RAWS: STALYN

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Chapter 134 Continue Living!

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE HEART WHETHER OR NOT SHE HATES YOU?
...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...
...

YOUR SISTER IS IN THERE!
AND ALSO ...
IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN STANDING AROUND HERE SECOND GUESSING, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S REALLY FUNNY!
I'M AFRAID YOU WILL NEVER SEE YOUR BIG SISTER AGAIN...
IF YOU MISS THIS CHANCE...
CONDITION REALLY THAT CRITICAL ...?
IS HIS ...
...
MR. TAKAHATA BASICALLY HAS NO IMMUNITY, AND IF THINGS CONTINUE THIS WAY... THE DOCTORS ARE ALL OUT OF IDEAS.
NOW... WE CAN ONLY PRAY FOR DIVINE INTER-VENTION...

BEEP

ARE YOU... THERE?

BEEP

HEY SIS...

YOU MAY ONLY HAVE THIS CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOUR SISTER!

IT'S ME, AYA.

BEEP

BEEP

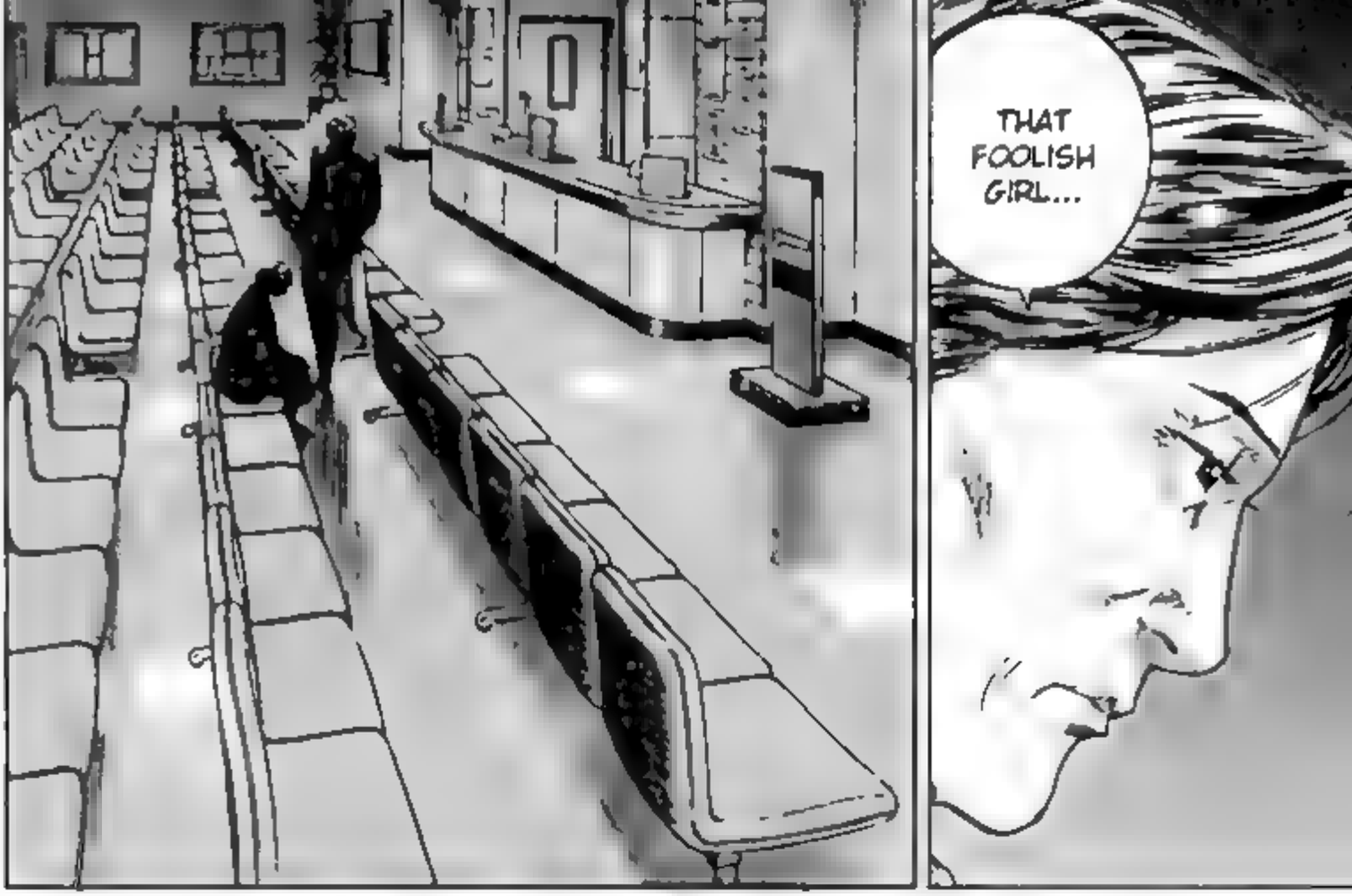
BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

...
BEEP
BEEP
ASK THE HEART WHETHER OR NOT SHE HATES YOU...
ASKING FOR THE HEART'S FORGIVE-NESS...
REALLY IS... RIDICULOUS.
BEEP
BEEP
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
BEEP


THAT FOOLISH GIRL...

EACH MONTH SHE WAS SENDING A LOT OF MONEY BACK HOME ..
TELLING US THAT SHE'S WORKING IN A BIG COMPANY AT A HIGH SALARY... "WE RECEIVED A BONUS TODAY SO I'LL SEND YOU MORE MONEY "

YOU MENTIONED BEFORE THAT THE OLDER SISTER WAS SOMEONE WHO KEPT SECRETS AND THOUGHT OF OTHERS, RIGHT ?
YES.

AND ENGAGING IN THAT LINE OF WORK ...
WHILE SHE WAS LIVING SUCH A FRUGAL LIFE

IT'S REALLY FOOLISH OF HER

BUT THEY'RE TWINS, RIGHT? THEIR BEHAVIOR IS BASICALLY THE SAME.
AYANE... THAT SISTER OF SAORI IS TOUGH AND LIVELY EVEN THOUGH SHE SEEMS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF HER...
YES... THEY ARE BOTH GOOD CHILDREN.
NO WAY! PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!
ICU
Intensive Care Unit
Cleanroom
SPEAKING OF... WHERE DID MY IMPULSIVE DAUGHTER RUN OFF TO...
AND ALSO MISS AYANE ...

I'M SO SORRY, PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS. BUT THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER...
FOR THE BOTH OF THEM.
PLEASE ASK HER TO LEAVE MR. TAKAHATA'S CLEANROOM IMMEDIATELY!
...
TAKAHATA'S AT A VERY DANGEROUS CONDITION!
SHE MIGHT BRING FORTH A MIRACLE...
MISS AYA ALREADY GOT HERSELF DISINFECTED... AND FURTHERMORE...
IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE VISTORS! HE MUST BE COMPLETELY ISOLATED FROM OUTSIDE CONTAMINANTS...
LETTING THOSE TWO SISTERS MEET... IS EXACTLY HOW MAMA AND I...
...?

IS THAT YOU SIS?
BEEP BEEP
BEEP ... BEEP
SIS?
AYA!
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP
A...
BEEP BEEP

THE CURRENT'S... TOO STRONG!
MY HAND ...
FEELS LIKE IT'S BEING TORN APART...
SIS!
COULD IT BE... A DREAM... OF THAT TIME WHEN...?
IS HE HAVING A NIGHT-MARE?

CAN YOU HEAR... ME?
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP
...!
CAN YOU HEAR ME? AYA!
AYA... LISTEN TO ME!
YOU ...
I CAN'T... HOLD ON MUCH LONGER!
IF THIS CONTINUES BOTH OF US WILL BE SWEPT AWAY!

...!
HURRY! LET GO OF MY HAND! AYA!
I'M BEGGING YOU...
LET GO QUICKLY!
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP
AYA... YOU MUST CONTINUE... LIVING...
BEEP BEEP

AYA.
GOODBYE...
SIS!
TAKE CARE OF PAPA AND MAMA FOR ME!
...!

LIVE MY PART AS WELL... AYA...
YOU MUST CON-TINUE LIVING!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

ナニ…
BEEP
BEEP
SIS...
BEEP
BEEP
MISS... AYA...?
...
ナニ…

I WAS JUST... DREAM-ING...
I DREAMT... BOTH OF YOU... YOU AND YOUR SISTER...
SIS LET HER HAND GO LOOSE... FOR MY SAKE...
SIS...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

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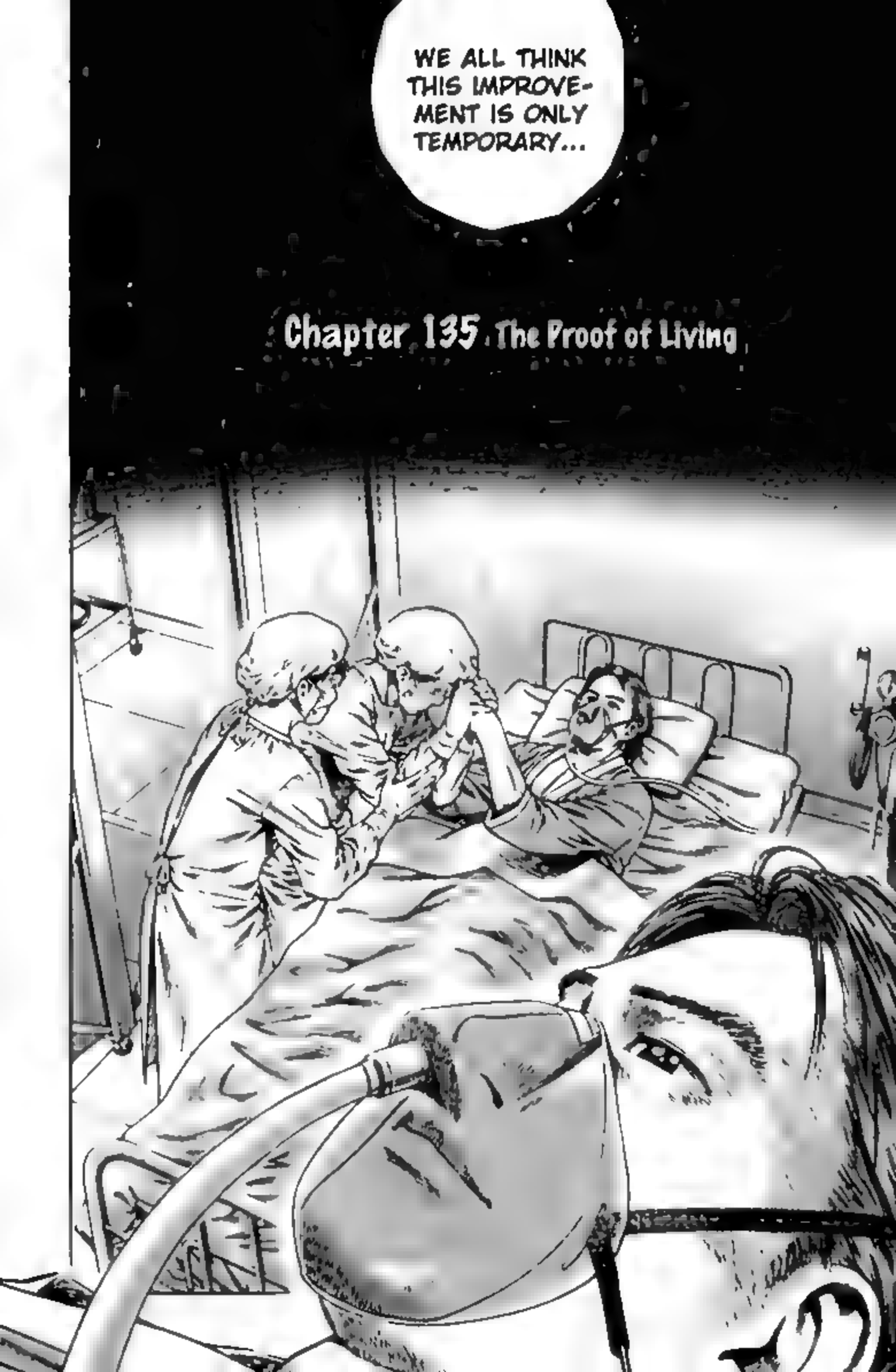
MR. TAKAHATA'S WILL TO GET WELL...
A MIRACLE ...
MAMA...
SAORI...
WHEN HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS... THE TRUTH IS, I THOUGHT HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LAST FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS.
I CAN'T HELP BUT SAY...
SO LETTING MISS AYA SEE MR. TAKAHATA WAS THE RIGHT DECISION!

SHE'S RE-FLECTING ON WHAT SHE'S DONE, SO PLEASE BE LENIENT WITH HER... YEAH!
THAT'S WHY... HAVING ME TO AGREE WITH SUCH A RECK-LESS ACT REALLY WAS...
RIGHT, WHEN WILL MR. TAKA-HATA BE DIS-CHARGED?
UGH! AS HER FATHER, I'M ALSO VERY SORRY!
HIS CONDI-TION SEEMS TO HAVE IMPROVED FOR NOW... BUT...
CER-TAINLY ...
...



Chapter 135 The Proof of Living

AFTER ALL THAT HASSLE TO FINALLY MEET...
AFTER 15 YEARS, IT'S HARD FOR THE SISTERS' HEARTS TO HAVE A CHANCE TO COMMUNICATE...
BUT...
TEN DAYS... NO, BEING ABLE TO LAST EVEN A WEEK WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE INCREDIBLE...

—TWO WEEKS LATER—
COULD THAT DOCTOR BE A QUACK?
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE FOR A FULL RECOVERY ...
YEAH ...
TEN DAYS NO BEING ABLE TO LAST EVEN A WEEK WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE INCREDIBLE
MR. TAKAHATA IS STILL GOING STRONG ...
THAT TIME HE WAS PRETTY SURE ABOUT IT!
BACK WHEN YOU WERE IN THAT CRAMPED CLEANROOM, WE HADDA DISINFECT OURSELVES EVERY TIME WE WANTED TO SEE YA!
THIS ROOM AIN'T BAD!
FU... FUFU...!
I wish I could make plans with you...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, AYA CAME TO VISIT YOU EVERY DAY, GOD, I'M SO ENVIOUS!

AH... THAT'S RIGHT... I HEARD THAT YOUR COMPANY HAS SECURED 1ST FINANCE AID AS FAMILY
YEAH... BUT I SPENT A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM...
FU
I GUESS THIS CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED A CERTIFIED CLEAN-ROOM SALE THIS ROOM HAS BEEN EXPECIALLY CLEANED
HMPH
THOSE DRINK-ING SESSIONS TILL MORNING EACH DAY... WITH YOU...
FU
SUP WHY DID YOU CALL ME OUT OF THE BLUE?
IT FEELS SO LONG SINCE
I GUESS
FU

ヒュヒュ
...
I WISH... I COULD HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO DRINK AGAIN...
IT WAS VERY ENJOYABLE... DRINKING THAT WAY...
LET'S GET EVERY-BODY AROUND TO THE PART-AY!
GREAT! THEN LET'S DO IT TO-NIGHT!
CHEERS!

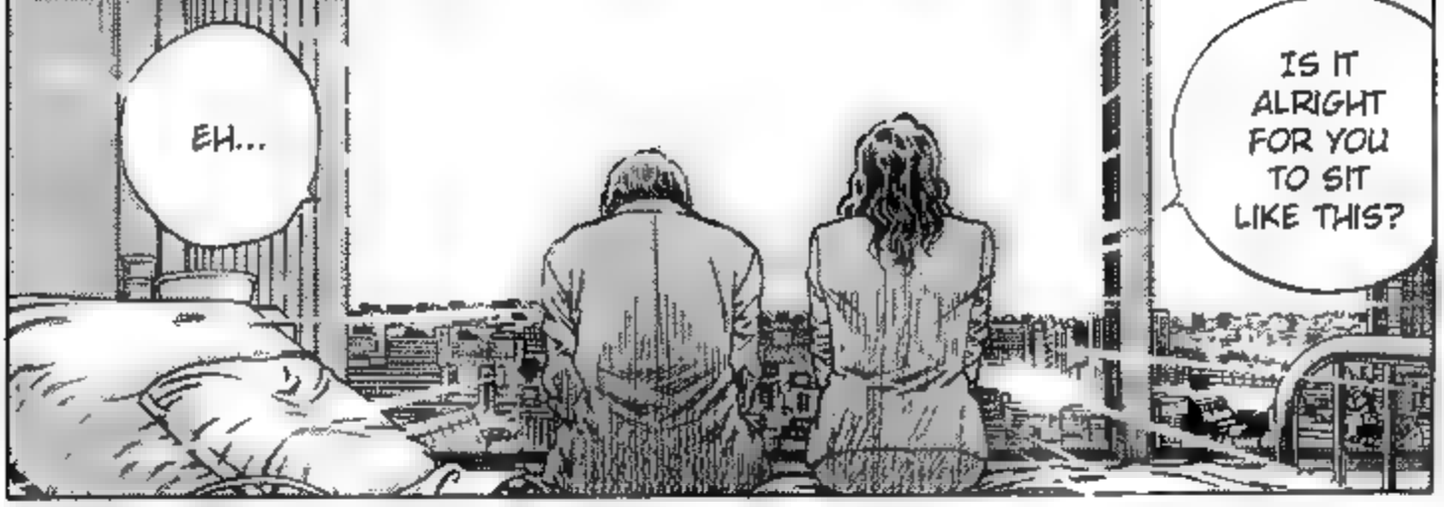
YOU'RE SO PETTY, MANAGER!
HEY MAN, YOU WANNA GET PAID AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
EVERYBODY KEEP ON DRINKING!
TONIGHT'S BILLING IS NORMAL! THERE'S DEFINITELY NO HIDDEN CHARGES!

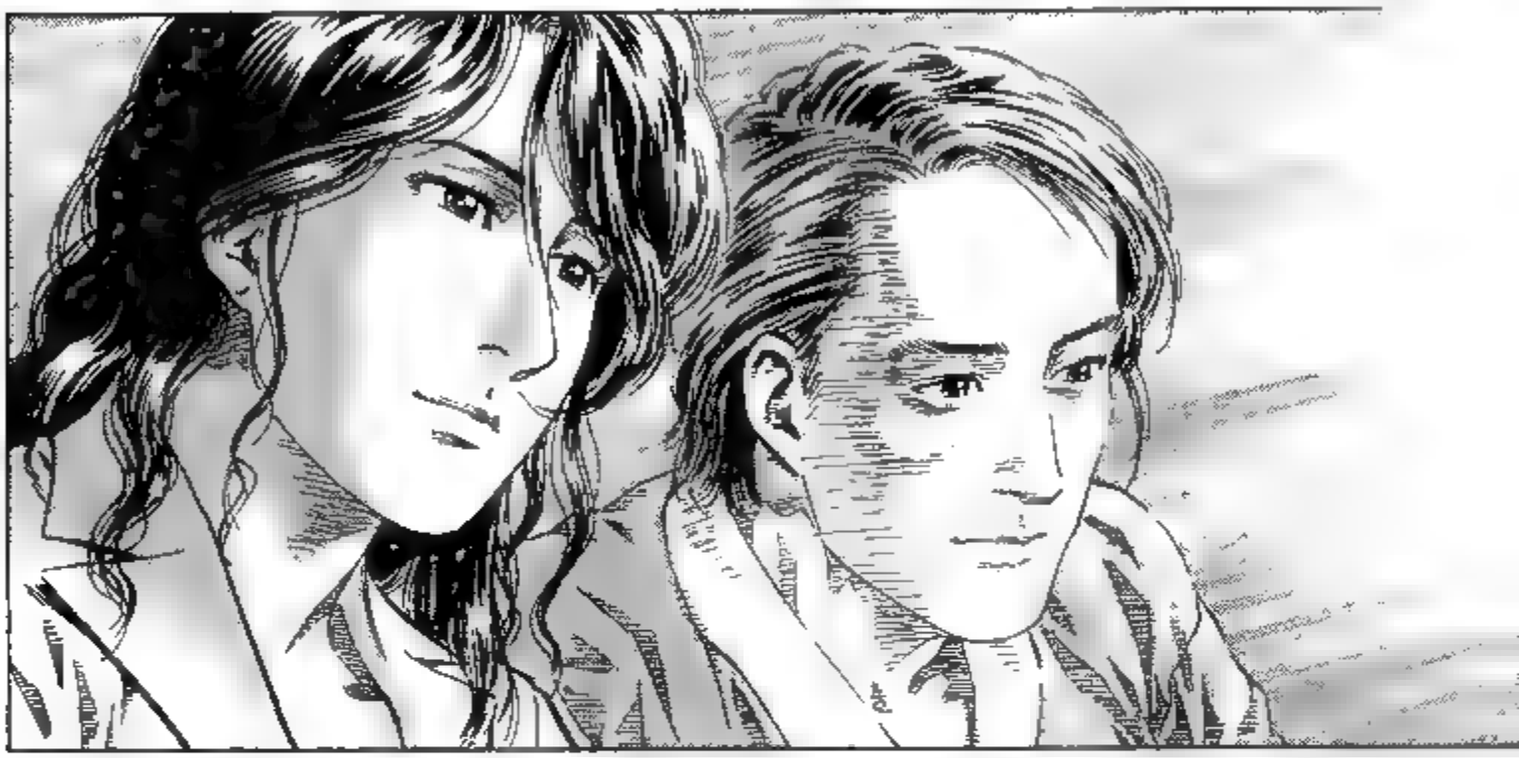
YEAH, NO CHARGE!
BEEP BEEP!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT! I'M JUST ADDING THE COST OF THE TRIP TO THE HOSPITAL, THAT'S ALL...
SHOW YOUR MASCULINE SIDE ONCE IN A WHILE!

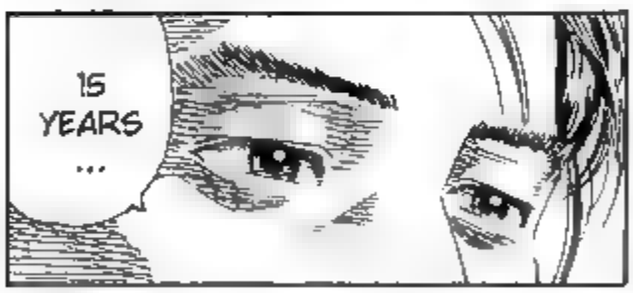
HURRY AND FIX HIM UP!
RYO-PAPA, STOP THAT! THIS IS THE PATIENT'S ROOM!
AFTER ALL THE MONEY YOU RIPPED OFF US IN THE PAST, THIS LITTLE PARTY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FREE SERVICE!
OH EGAH!

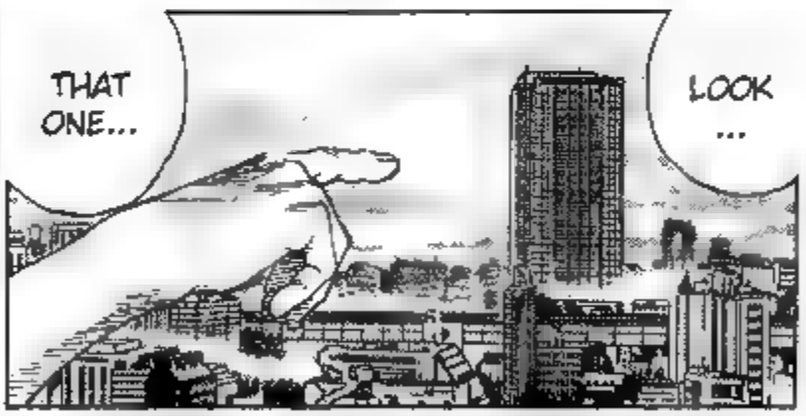
HERE, TAKA, EAT UP!
THANK YOU... EVEN YOU HAVE COME, POPS...
HEH, SO YOU REALLY ARE SICK, NO WONDER YOU'RE SO THIN.
BUT THERE'S NO ILLNESS MY ODEN CAN'T CURE!
EH, IT'S DELICIOUS! YOUR ODEN REALLY IS THE BEST...
DIDN'T I TELL YA?
...
RIGHT! THEN I'LL TAKE A BITE...
SLURP!
BUT... WHY DID THAT DOCTOR ALLOW RYO-PAPA TO DO THESE THINGS...
He's undressing already o_o
おはは
THEY GOT ME AGAIN —

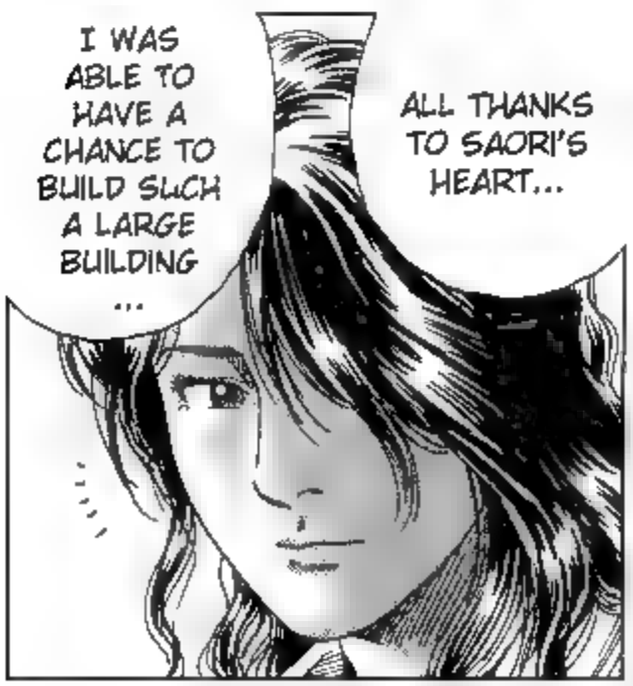
AHHA HA...
..
WA WA!
DON CHAN
DON CHAN!
SNORE ...
EVERYBODY SEEMS TO BE DRUNK...


EH...
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO SIT LIKE THIS?




15 YEARS ...


THAT ONE...
LOOK ...


I WAS ABLE TO HAVE A CHANCE TO BUILD SUCH A LARGE BUILDING ...
ALL THANKS TO SAORI'S HEART...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW TALL IT IS.
MY COMPANY'S BUILDING...
HMM....

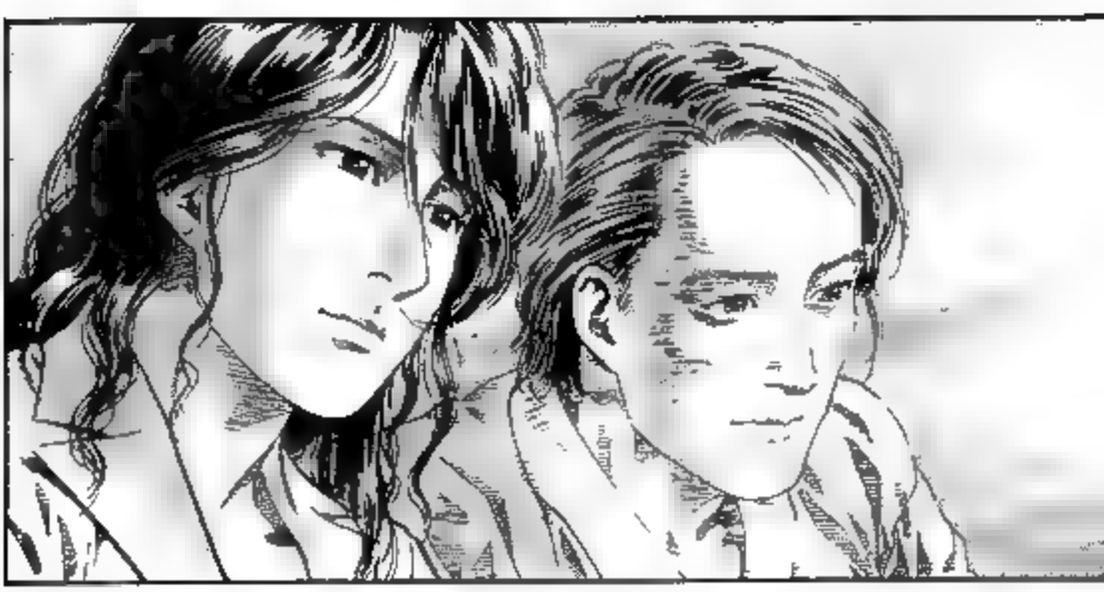
PROOF OF LIVING... FOR THE BOTH OF US IN THESE 15 YEARS... I GUESS...
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN...
MINE AND SAORI'S...
MR. TAKAHATA...?
I WAS ABLE TO LIVE AN ADDITIONAL 15 YEARS...
THANKS TO HER LIFE...
THANKS TO YOUR SISTER'S ...
DONATED HEART....

AND I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU AS WELL...
SO MANY GOOD FRIENDS ...
ALSO MEETING ...
MISS AYANA...
NO...

I REALLY ...
DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...
YOU LET ME KNOW WHAT MY SISTER WAS THINKING WITHIN HER HEART, AND IT MAKES ME FEEL .. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO .
DON'T SAY THAT... I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BEAR IT!
BEING ABLE... TO LET THE TWO OF YOU SISTERS... COMMUN-ICATE...
BEING ABLE TO HELP FINISH THIS WORK...
I WAS ABLE... TO LIVE UP TILL NOW...
MAYBE... IN ORDER TO CONVEY YOUR SISTER'S MESSAGE...
THEN... THAT... MUST BE...

MR. TAKA...
THE REAL ...
PROOF OF LIVING...
REST FOR A MOMENT ...
I'M TIRED... LET ME ...
...
...

THANK YOU...
MR. TAKA-HATA...
THANK YOU...



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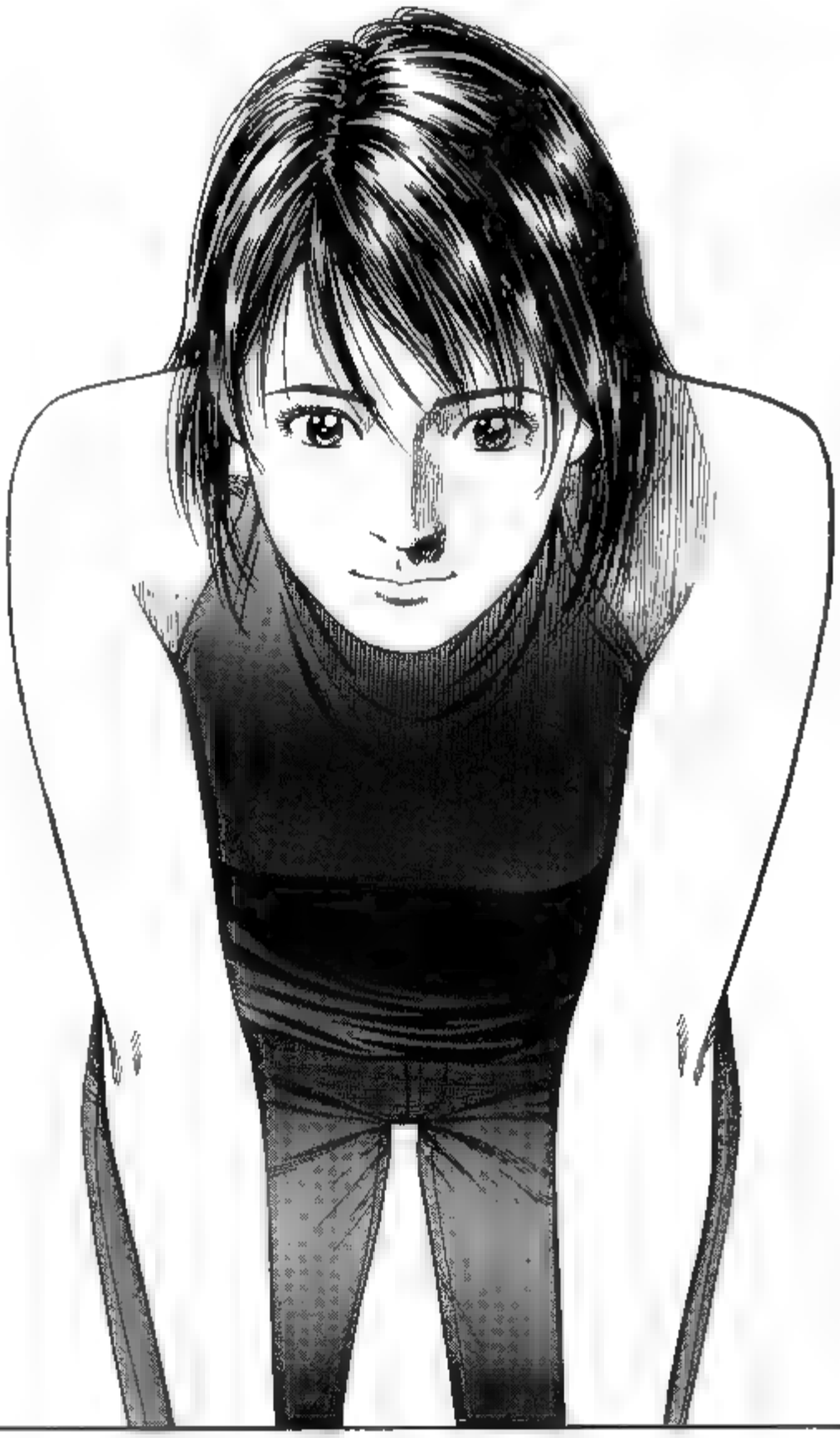
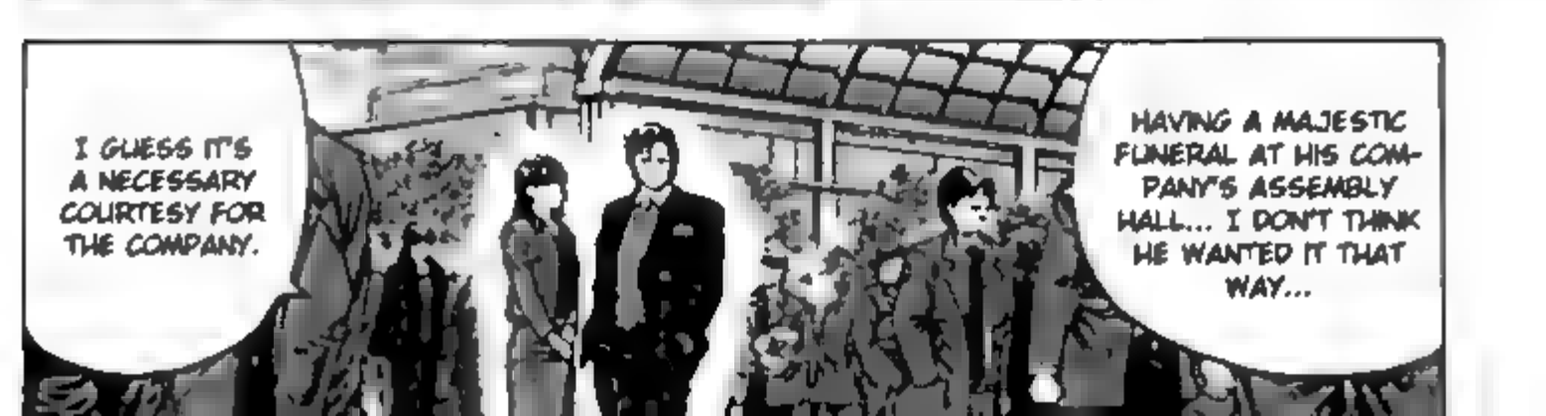
Chapter 136 Takahata's Lucky Charm



The Funeral of Takahata Minoru
WEARING THIS IS REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE...
...
GEEZ...


I GUESS IT'S A NECESSARY COURTESY FOR THE COMPANY.
HAVING A MAJESTIC FUNERAL AT HIS COMPANY'S ASSEMBLY HALL... I DON'T THINK HE WANTED IT THAT WAY...

HEY, AH-SHAN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? BATHROOM?
TO THE FUNERAL
THE VENUE'S THIS WAY.
... EH?
...
THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT PLACE TO SEND TAKAHATA OFF...

AYA'S GONE BACK TO HER FAMILY ANYWAY, AND WON'T BE ATTENDING THE CEREMONIES...
OH, REALLY...
GOING TO [illegible] HOUSE, EH?
HIS HOUSE KEPT WHAT IS IT WITH YOU?
JUST ONCE...
...

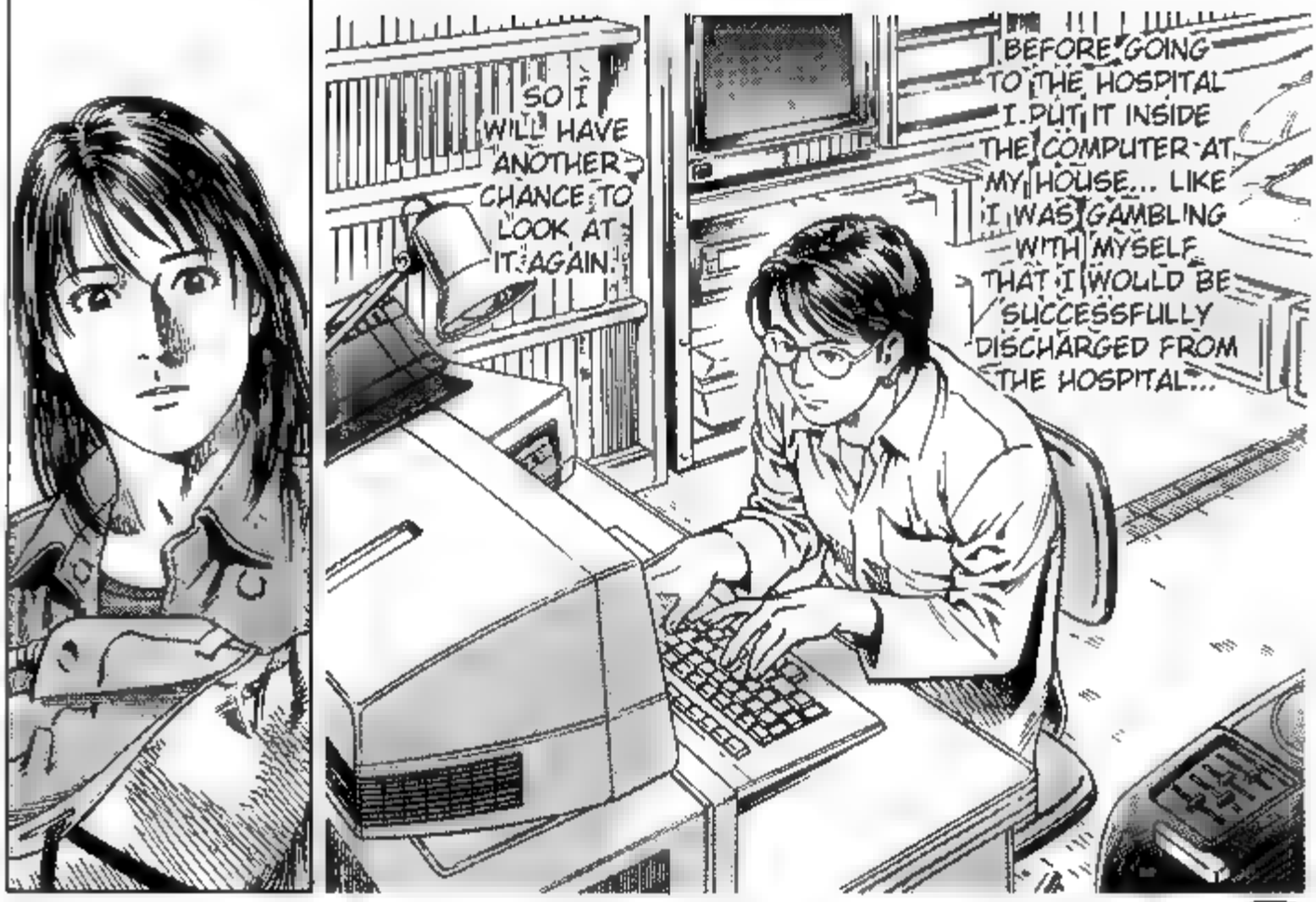
...
SEEMS LIKE THERE WON'T BE ANY MIRACLES HAPPENING FOR ME...
COULD IT BE THAT... OUR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DIFFERENT — THE HEARTS' HISTOCOMPATIBILITIES ARE JUST SO MUCH DIFFERENT?
AROUND ONE WEEK BEFORE
...

THERE'S NO SUCH THING! DON'T YOU GIVE UP...
I'M WELL AWARE OF MY OWN BODY...
EVEN THOUGH YOU HEAR THIS FREQUENTLY ...
BUT IT'S TRUE.
I'VE LIVED AN ADDITIONAL 15 MORE YEARS...
I'VE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN SOCIETY... I'VE OUTLIVED MY PARENTS, AND WAS EVEN ABLE TO ATTENDED THEIR FUNERAL...
I HAVE ALSO HELPED TO CONVEY MISS SAORI'S FEELINGS TO MISS AYA...
ALL OF THESE ARE ALREADY CONSIDERED AS MIRACLES...

LETTING YOU SEE ME LIKE THIS EVERY DAY, A FELLOW ORGAN TRANSPLANTEE...
I'M CRUEL, HUH...
YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THAT ONE DAY YOU'LL BE LIKE THIS... OF COURSE IT'LL BE HARD TO GO THROUGH...
NOT AT ALL, REALLY ...
THANK YOU ALL... FOR ALL OF THESE DAYS.
...
YOU'VE ALREADY FINISHED MY CONTRACT... THERE IS NO NEED TO VISIT ME EVERY DAY...

YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO DIE, HOW COULD YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO CARE FOR OTHERS?
MISS SHAN'N ...
MR. TAKAHATA, WHY AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
ALL OF THESE 15 YEARS, DIDN'T YOU ONCE FEEL AFRAID?
I'M ALWAYS SCARED...
INFEC-TIONS... COMPLI-CATIONS...
NOT KNOW-ING WHEN MY HEART WILL BE REJECTED...
NOT KNOWING WHEN THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE IMMUNO-SUPPRESSANT DRUGS WILL OCCUR...
ANYBODY WOULD BE AFRAID...

I WOULD HAVE DIED A LONG TIME AGO...
BUT I'M WILLING TO TAKE THIS RISK. IF I HADN'T HAD THE TRANSPLANT 15 YEARS AGO...
I COULD HAVE DIED ON OR AFTER THE OPERATION... BUT I COULD ONLY TAKE MY CHANCES.
I WAS EVEN SCARED HALF TO DEATH AT THE OPERATING TABLE... BECAUSE THE SUCCESS RATE WAS VERY LOW.
...
THE TRUTH IS, I'M A BIT OF A COWARD...
I FELT LIKE I WAS COMMITTING SUICIDE, IN ORDER TO LIVE...
BEFORE THE OPERATION COMMENCED... BECAUSE OF MY GRIEF, I LEFT A WILL...
FOR MY FUTURE SELF...


BEFORE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL I PUT IT INSIDE THE COMPUTER AT MY HOUSE... LIKE I WAS GAMBLING WITH MYSELF THAT I WOULD BE SUCCESSFULLY DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL...
SO I WILL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO LOOK AT IT AGAIN.

AFTER LEAVING THE HOSPITAL...
IT BECAME MY LUCKY CHARM.
WHENEVER I WAS AFRAID OF DYING...
I WOULD JUST LOOK IT UP AGAIN AND MOTIVATE MYSELF...

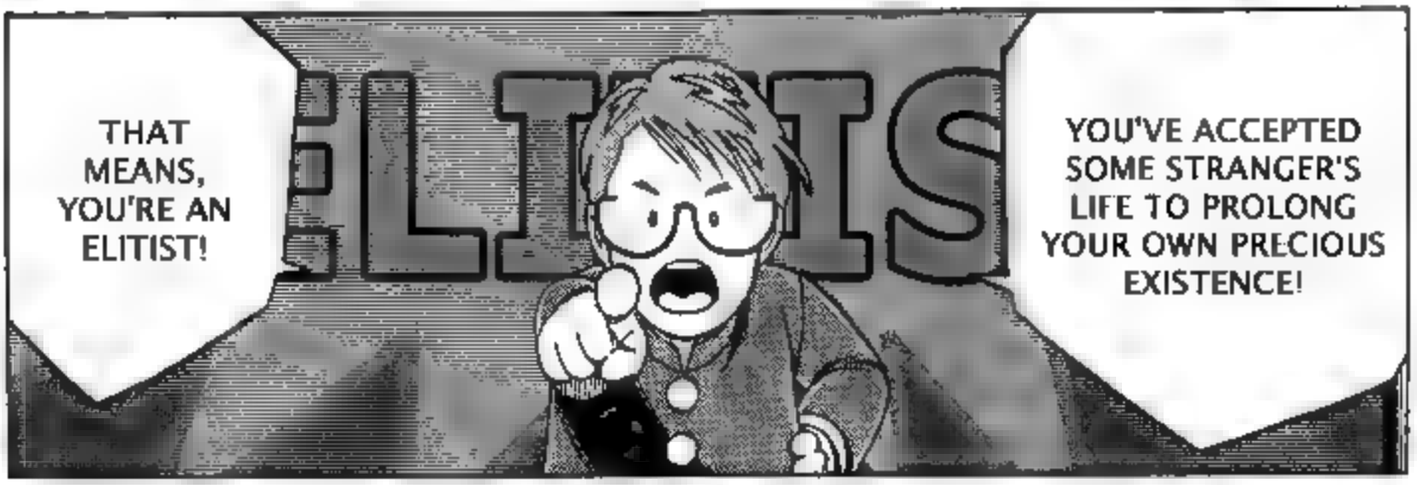
IT GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO LIVE ON...
I WISH YOU CAN GO SEE IT...

...
THINK OF IT AS A SMALL GIFT FOR MY GRATITUDE...
YOU CAN FIND IT ON MY COMPUTER AT MY HOME.
I HOPE IT WOULD BE OF HELP TO YOU...
WISHING IT WOULD BE AS I HOPE...
GAH, YOU'RE KIDDING, THIS IS TAKAHATA'S HOUSE?

HE DECIDED THAT THIS... IS WHERE HE WILL BE REBORN AGAIN... THAT'S WHY IT'S HARD TO LET GO OF THIS PLACE.
HMM ...
THAT'S CRAZY, YOU OUGHTA THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD LIVE AT A PLACE MORE FITTING OF THE PRESIDENT...
FROM THE TIME HE HAD THE OPERATION... HE'D BEEN LIVING HERE FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, SINCE HE WAS A STUDENT.
WOAH... THIS ROOM FEELS LIKE IT BELONGS TO A STUDENT WHO WAS A BOOK-WORM...
...

SO... THIS IS HIS SO CALLED LUCKY CHARM...
YES...
Although you've probably seen it before...
BETCHA IT'S LIKE A JACK-IN-A-BOX, THIS IS SO EXCITING!
SNAP!
CON-GRAT-ULA-TIONS!
COUGH!

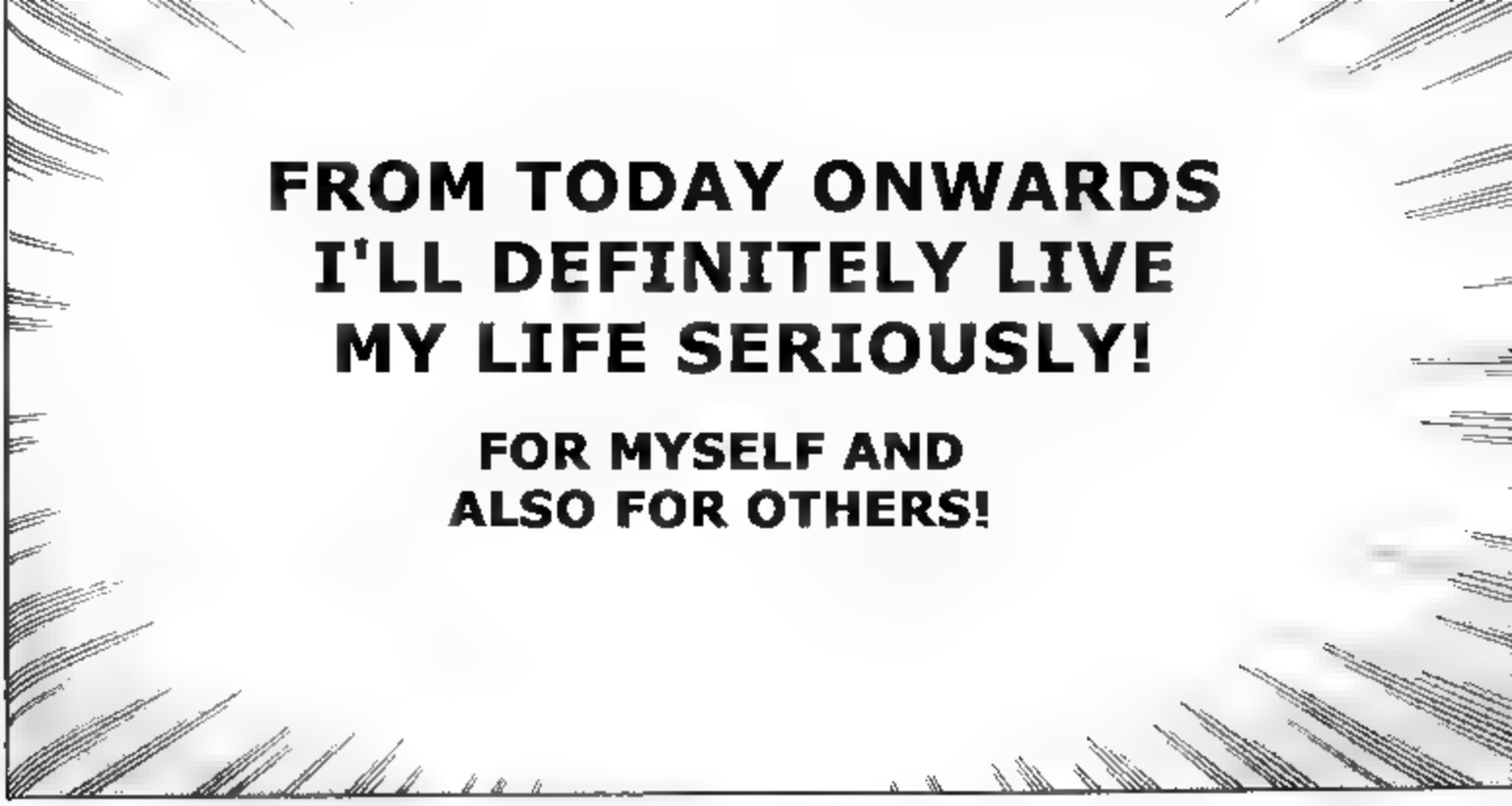
PON
GRATS!
ON BEING
SAFE AND ALIVE!
PA
PAN
THIS IS... TAKAHATA'S VOICE FROM WHEN HE WAS STILL A BRAT.
WAH... MANY CONGRAT-ULATIONS!
SEEING THIS MEANS THAT I'M STILL ALIVE!
... AH...!
HIP! HIP! HOO-RAY!
HIP! HIP! HOO-RAY!
HIP! HIP! HOO-RAY!
PA
PAN



THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD ENGRAVE THESE WORDS INTO YOUR HEART!
YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE EVEN ONE SECOND OF YOUR LIFE, OR ELSE YOU'RE INSULTING THAT PERSON'S LIFE!
...

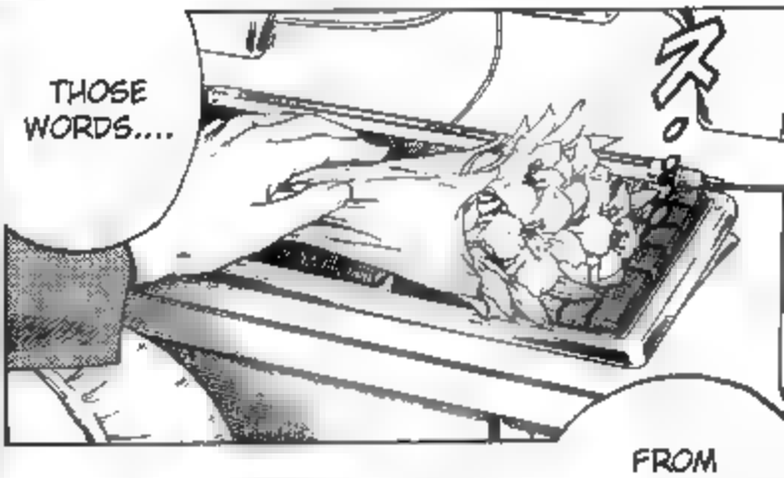
FROM TOD

I'LL DEF


FROM TODAY ONWARDS
I'LL DEFINITELY LIVE
MY LIFE SERIOUSLY!
FOR MYSELF AND
ALSO FOR OTHERS!

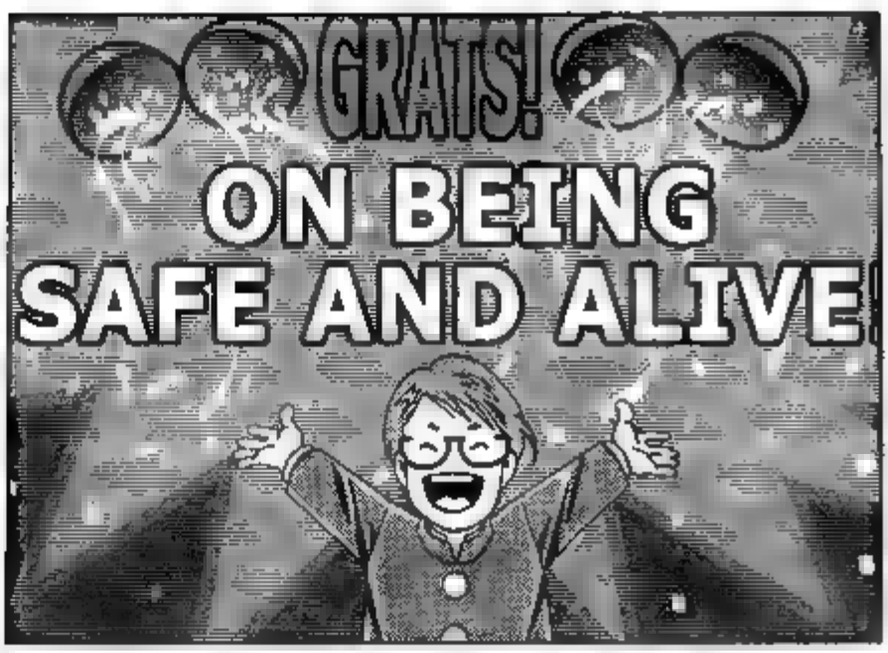
FROM TODAY ONWARDS
I'LL DEFINITELY LIVE
MY LIFE SERIOUSLY!
FOR MYSELF AND
ALSO FOR OTHERS!

...


THOSE WORDS....

THANK YOU... MR. TAKAHATA.
FROM TODAY WILL ALSO BECOME MY LUCKY CHARM...

I... WILL GO TO YOUR FUNERAL WHEN THE TIME COMES...
EH?
RYO-PAPA...
フフ...
...
IS THAT SO... I HAVE THE RESILIENCE OF A COCKROACH, YOU KNOW...


GRATS!
ON BEING
SAFE AND ALIVE!

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SO YA THINK I'M SOME FRIGID WOMAN THAT MAKES THE FLOWERS WILT, HUH?

JEEZ, WHY DID SAEKO DRINK SO MUCH!
HAHAHA ...
CAN YA BELIEVE IT, I HAVEN'T GOTTEN FLOWERS FROM NO ONE IN TEN YEARS!
NOT EVEN ON MY BIRTH-DAY!
SAEKO, YOU'RE REALLY LOUD—

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT RECEIVING FLOWERS FROM GIRLS!?
...
THAT'S NOT TRUE... NEXT TIME I'LL SEND OVER SOME FLOWERS FOR YOU ...
IS THAT WHAT ALL YOU STUPID MEN THINK!?
"SHE'S TOO DAMN OLD FOR FLOWERS, ANYWAY!"

Chapter 137 Saeko and the Mysterious Girl

CATCH YA LATER! BYE!
SIGH...
SIGH...
WE MADE IT TO YOUR APARTMENT. SAEKO, IS RIGHT HERE OKAY? OR SHOULD I TAKE YOU TO YOUR ROOM?
IZS NO PROBLEM, NO PROBLUM!
CALLING ME TO SEND HER HOME EVERY TIME SHE GETS DRUNK... YOU'RE REALLY HELPFUL...
JUST MY LUCK...
ス...
A KID...?
...?

ゴロ
GAN'T GEDDUP ...
EH...
ガチャ
ビチャ
...?

YOU ATTRACTED A ZASHIKI-WARASHI?
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS...
ARE YOU...
WHO'S HAVING MENOPAUSE?
ALREADY HAVING SYMPTOMS OF PERIMENOPAUSE STAGE!?
IF ONLY YOU WOULD HAVE NOOKIE WITH ME, YOUR HORMONES WOULDN'T FLUCTATE, AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MENOPAUSE...
HAVING THOSE IMPOSSIBLE HALLUCINATIONS...

MAN! COMING UP WITH SUCH A WILD IDEA... YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, SAEKO!
A SPIRIT ...
IT'S A CHILD-LIKE SPIRIT. THEY SAY THAT IF YOU ATTRACT ONE, IT WILL BRING YOU GOOD FORTUNE.
WHAT'S A ZASHIKI-WARASHI?
IT SEEMS LIKE A GIRL'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME AROUND.
LIKE I SAID! ZASHIKI-WARASHI IS JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH!
PCHSS-TCH!
IF YOU WANNA QUIT BEING A SPINSTER AND FIND YOURSELF A MAN, THERE'S ALWAYS ME!
SINCE LAST MONTH ...
STRANGE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING AROUND ME.

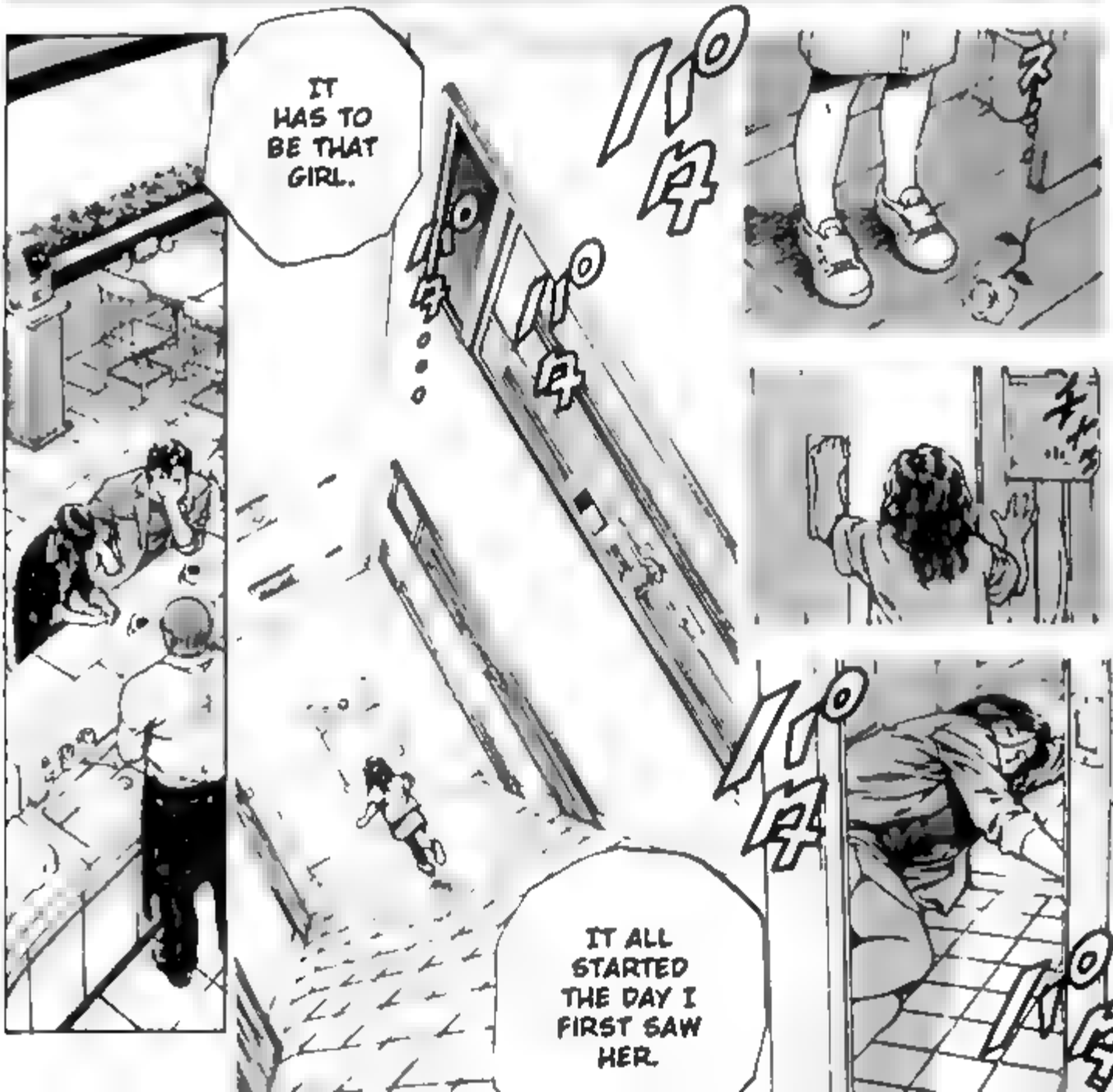
FIRST, THERE WAS A CAMERA WITH PICTURES ON IT.
野上洋子
...?
Ah..
WHAT WERE THOSE PICTURES OF?
AND? DID YOU HAVE THEM DEVELOPED?
AS WELL AS PICTURES OF HIS HIDEOUT.
A MEMBER OF THE CHINESE TRIAD WE WERE INVESTIGATING,
...

BUT SEVERAL DAYS LATER, WE WERE ABLE TO SECURE THE SUSPECT AT THAT VERY LOCATION.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THEM AT FIRST,
THAT'S NOT ALL.
...
THE BELONGINGS OF MISSING PERSONS...
THAT THE SUSPECT WOULDN'T DISCLOSE DURING INTERROGATION...
THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE WEAPON INVOLVED...
野上冴子

AND THEN, TWO NIGHTS AGO...
IT'S HAPPENED FOUR TIMES THIS PAST MONTH! IN ANY CASE, THEY WERE A BIG HELP IN OUR INVESTIGATIONS.
CLANK
A DELIVERY AT THIS HOUR?
野上
!

A CHILD'S... FOOTSTEPS?
BUT IT WAS AFTER HEARING THOSE FOOTSTEPS THAT I REALIZED...
I TRIED FOLLOWING THEM, BUT I COULDN'T LOCATE THE CHILD.
IT'S THAT GIRL... FROM THAT NIGHT LAST MONTH!

ARE YOU...?
WHO...


IT HAS TO BE THAT GIRL.
IT ALL STARTED THE DAY I FIRST SAW HER.

YEAH. SAEKO, THE DOORS AT YOUR PLACE LOCK AUTOMATICALLY, SO THERE'S NO WAY A K'D COULD JUST WALK IN.
GETTING ALL THAT EVIDENCE ISN'T NECESSARILY RELATED TO MEETING THAT GIRL, THOSE ARE TWO SEPARATE THINGS — IT'S JUST TOO COINCIDENTAL.
THAT'S WHY... I WANT TO LOCATE THAT GIRL AND FIND OUT FOR MYSELF!
WAIT A SECOND. THAT'S QUITE A LEAP IN LOGIC! YOU THINK A LITTLE GIRL COULD PULL OFF ALL THAT DETECTIVE STUFF?!
MAYBE IT'S MENOPAUSE!
DON'T GET SO WORKED UP. FIRST OF ALL, ARE YOU SURE THE ROSE AND THE GIRL WERE EVEN REAL? THAT NIGHT, YOU WERE SO DRUNK YOU COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER AH-SHAN WALKING YOU HOME. MAYBE IT WAS A DREAM, OR...
I JUST KNOW IT. IT'S THAT GIRL!
I SEE HOW IT IS! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
WHOOSH

IT MUST BE ALL THAT BUILT-UP STRESS
WELL... IT LOOKS PRETTY SERIOUS.
...

DAMN THEM... THEY ALL DOUBT MY FEMALE INTUITION, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM!

YOU'RE SAYING A WOMAN'S INTUITION GETS DULL WHEN SHE BECOMES AN OLD HAG?

WHO SAYS I'M HAVING MENOPAUSE, BASTARDS!

HIC!
HIC!

ANYWAY ...
I'M AN OLD HAG... SHIT...
ズーン
ピシャ
HA!

WANT TO HOLD ME
WHY DO YOU
YOU AFTER ALL
SORRY WAS

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Chapter 138 Zashiki-Warashi of the City

IT'S JUST LIKE SAEKO SAID—
ALSO, SHE'S WANDERING THE STREETS THIS LATE AT NIGHT
BUT HOW COULD SUCH A LITTLE CHILD ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION...?
SHE REALLY EXISTS!
THE ZASHIKI-WARASHI...
I WONDER WHO SHE IS

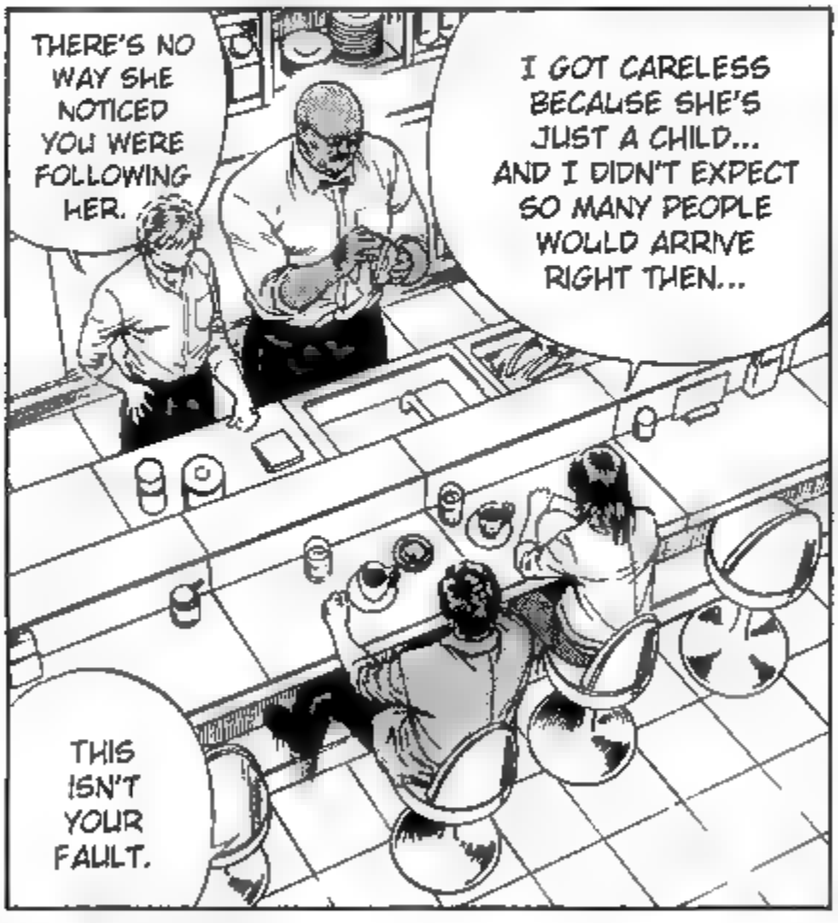
...
スナック
SUZUK
BAR
SHE DIDN'T HESITATE — MAYBE SHE'S

洋風居酒屋
あじよし
洋風居酒屋
あじよし
Cake
Cake
Cake
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE STEALING... THE PEOPLE AT THESE SHOPS LEFT FOOD FOR HER?
...
HRM-m
ake

DARN IT!
...
CHIEF OF POLICE
YOU'RE SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE REGIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MEETING
AFTER THE MEETING STARTING AT TEN O'CLOCK

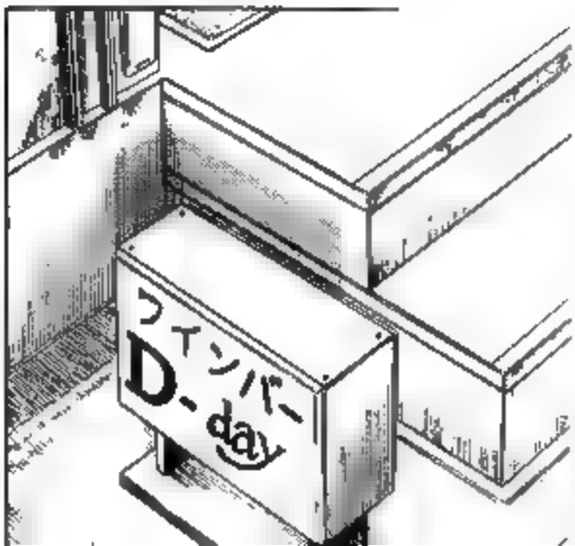
STARTING AT ONE O'CLOCK THERE'S A CONFERENCE AT OLRA ABOUT THE MURDER AT THE PARKING LOT...
WHICH'LL LAST UP TO TWELVE O'CLOCK... SORRY TO SAY, YOU ONLY HAVE 30 MINUTES FOR LUNCH.
...
EH... WHAT IS IT?
CHIEF... MAY I ASK, DID YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAID?
YES! OF COURSE ...
—GAMI?
CHIEF NOGAMI?

...
YES...
SORRY, CAN YOU SAY THAT AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING...


THERE'S NO WAY SHE NOTICED YOU WERE FOLLOWING HER.
I GOT CARELESS BECAUSE SHE'S JUST A CHILD... AND I DIDN'T EXPECT SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD ARRIVE RIGHT THEN...
THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.

YOU LOST TRACK OF HER...
SO THAT'S HOW...

YEAH...


ファンバー
D-day

RIGHT. I ASKED THE OWNER OF ONE PLACE WHY HE LEFT FOOD OUT FOR THAT GIRL...

THE LUCKY GIRL?
I GUESS IT WAS ABOUT HALF A YEAR AGO.
THE BUSINESS WASN'T DOING TOO WELL... THE DEBTS JUST KEPT PILING UP, MY WIFE HAD LEFT ME...
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I CALL HER ANYWAY.
...
YES...
BUT THEN SHE APPEARED BEFORE ME FROM OUT OF NOWHERE...
Sigh
D-day
I FELT I HAD TO FOLD THE BUSINESS ...

AT THE TIME I THOUGHT SHE WAS ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF SOME NEARBY STORE...
SHE WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING NO MATTER WHAT I ASKED HER, ALL SHE DID WAS STARE AT ME...

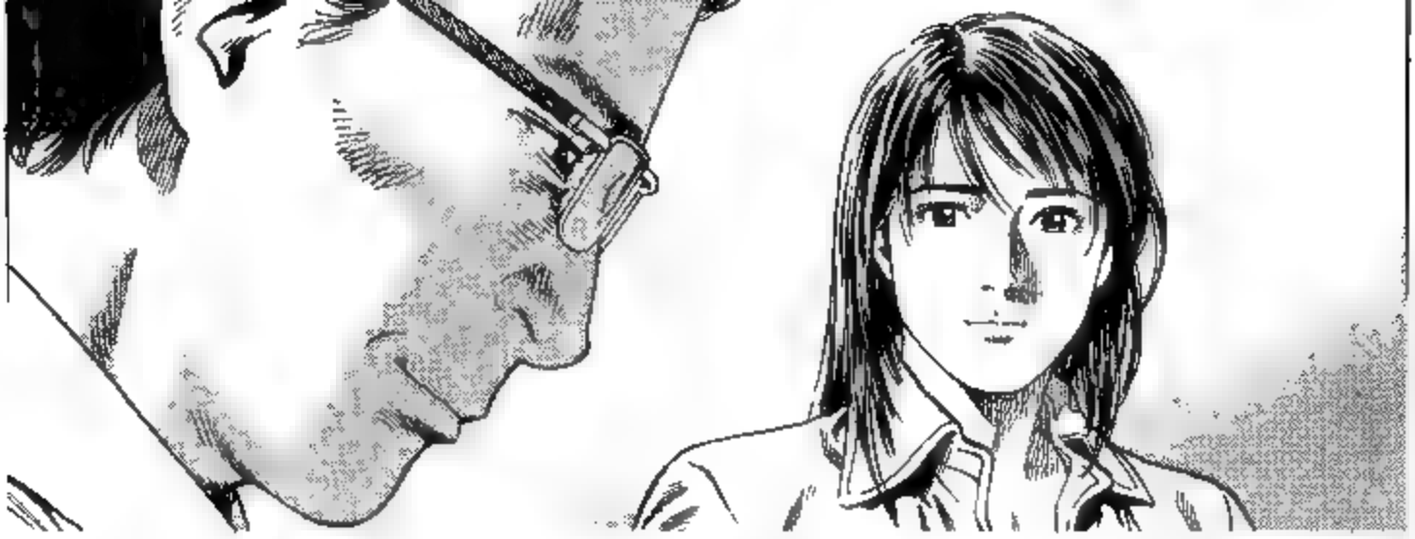
...
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU ALONE THIS LATE AT NIGHT?

WANT SOME-THING TO EAT? IT'S JUST LEFTOVERS, THOUGH.

CHOMP CHOMP
CHEW CHEW
YOU SURE EAT A LOT! WERE YOU THAT HUNGRY? IS IT GOOD?

HER SMILE, HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS... IT FELT REALLY GOOD, IT CALMED MY HEART.

SINCE THEN, I MYSTERIOUSLY STARTED GETTING MORE CUSTOMERS — MY BUSINESS FINALLY GOT BACK ON TRACK. AND THEN AT SOME POINT,
I FED HER BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE THAT SMILE.
FROM THEN ON, SHE WOULD COME BY ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK...
...
SHE SIMPLY STOPPED SHOWING UP...
I FEEL LIKE IT'S BECAUSE OF HER THAT THINGS ARE BOOMING...
I'M SURE SHE'S GIVEN ME GOOD FORTUNE...
D-day
THAT'S WHY I LEAVE FOOD HERE, TO TELL HER SHE CAN COME BY ANYTIME.
I SEE... SO SHE TOOK IT WITH HER.



I ASKED THE OWNER OF ANOTHER STORE ABOUT IT, AND HE SAID EXACTLY THE SAME.

THAT GIRL APPEARS BEFORE UNHAPPY PEOPLE, BRINGING THEM LUCK...
IT'S LIKE A LITTLE URBAN LEGEND.

THE LUCKY GIRL... THAT'S WHAT THEY CALLED HER.

THERE ARE MANY STORE OWNERS THAT CALLED HER THAT...

THEN IT'D BE CORRECT TO CALL HER THE ZASHIKI-WARASHI OF THIS CITY.

AH~
THOSE WHO BELIEVE THIS STORY, WILL LEAVE FOOD OUTSIDE THEIR DOOR, HOPING SHE WOULD APPEAR TO THEM.

IF SHE DOESN'T COME BY HERE, WE'LL GO OUT OF BUSINESS, REALLY
ボソ…
SO THEN, SHE THOUGHT SAEKO LOOKED UNHAPPY?
WAIT A MINUTE. SHE APPEARS BEFORE UNHAPPY PEOPLE?
IS WHAT SHE'D SAY, I'M SURE!
I'M AT THE PEAK OF MY CAREER! I'M PLENTY HAPPY!
WHO'S UNHAPPY?

IT'D BE BEST TO KEEP THIS MATTER A SECRET FROM SAEKO...
HA... HAHA... HA. PERHAPS...

IT'S LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS STARING OFF INTO SPACE.
YOU THINK?
THE CHIEF'S BEEN ACTING KINDA STRANGE LATELY, DON'T YOU THINK?
A ROSE? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING, IT DOESN'T SUIT THAT "IRON WOMAN".
THAT'S RIGHT, JUST THIS MORNING SHE WAS SO ABSORBED IN THIS ROSE.
YEAH, SHE HAS NO TIME FOR GUYS. HER MIND'S SET ON WORK ONLY, SHE'S REALLY AN IRON CHIEF!

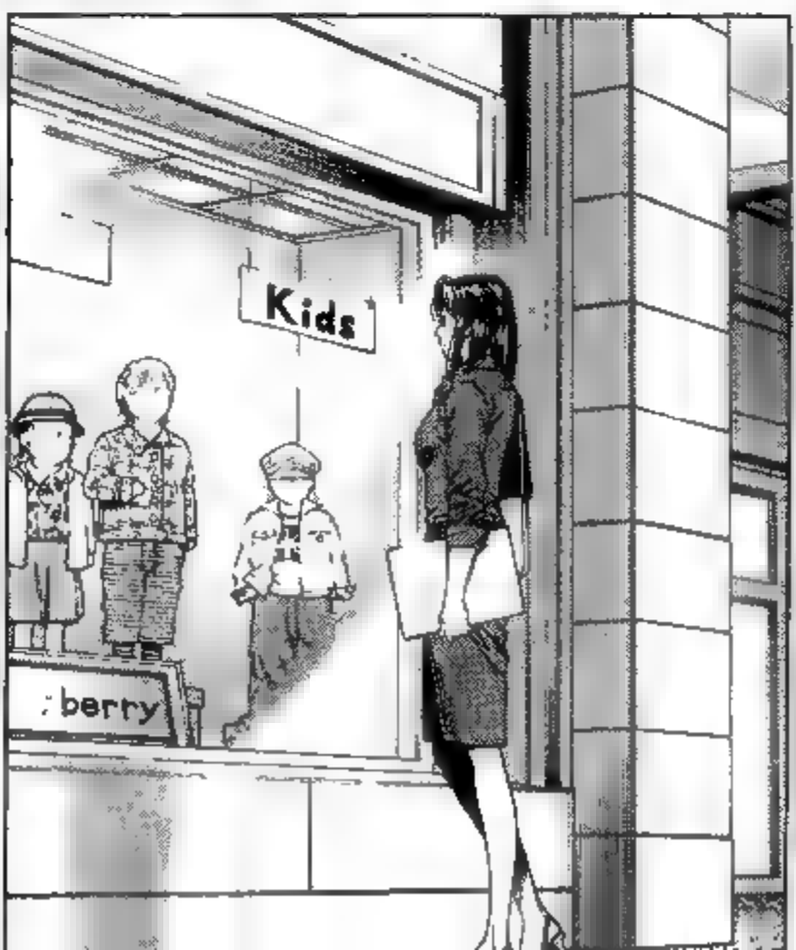
...
COULD IT BE A GIFT FROM A GUY?
HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE, WHO WOULD DARE?
IT'S HER—!
?!
WAIT!

紀伊國屋書店

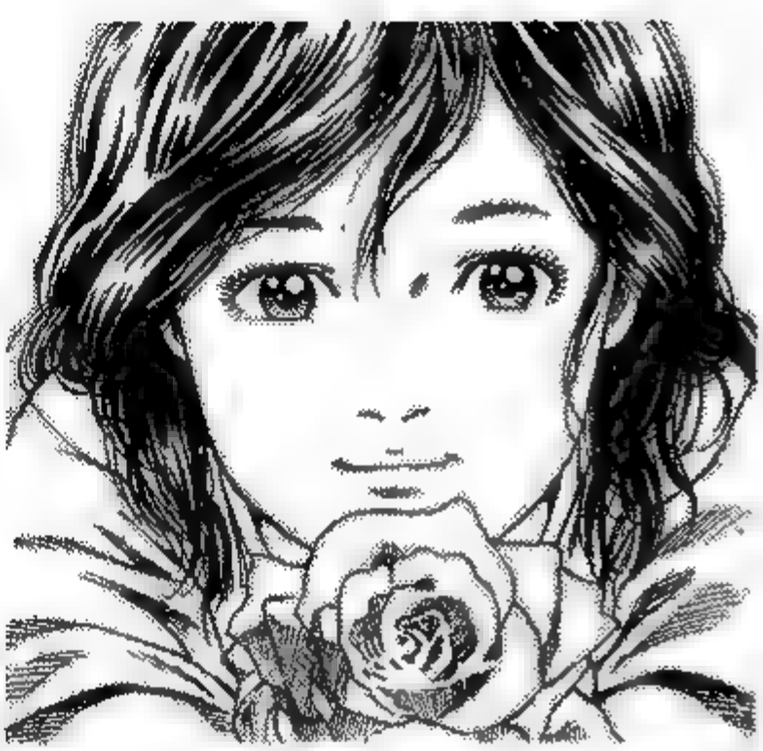
...

BRAGGING
Lyre the Dog

THIS WOULD LOOK GOOD ON HER...


Kids
:berry

...
WH-
WHAT AM I THINKING?
IS THERE REALLY SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?
I WONDER WHY I BOUGHT THIS THING ...
BRAGGING
Dog
HA!
Kids



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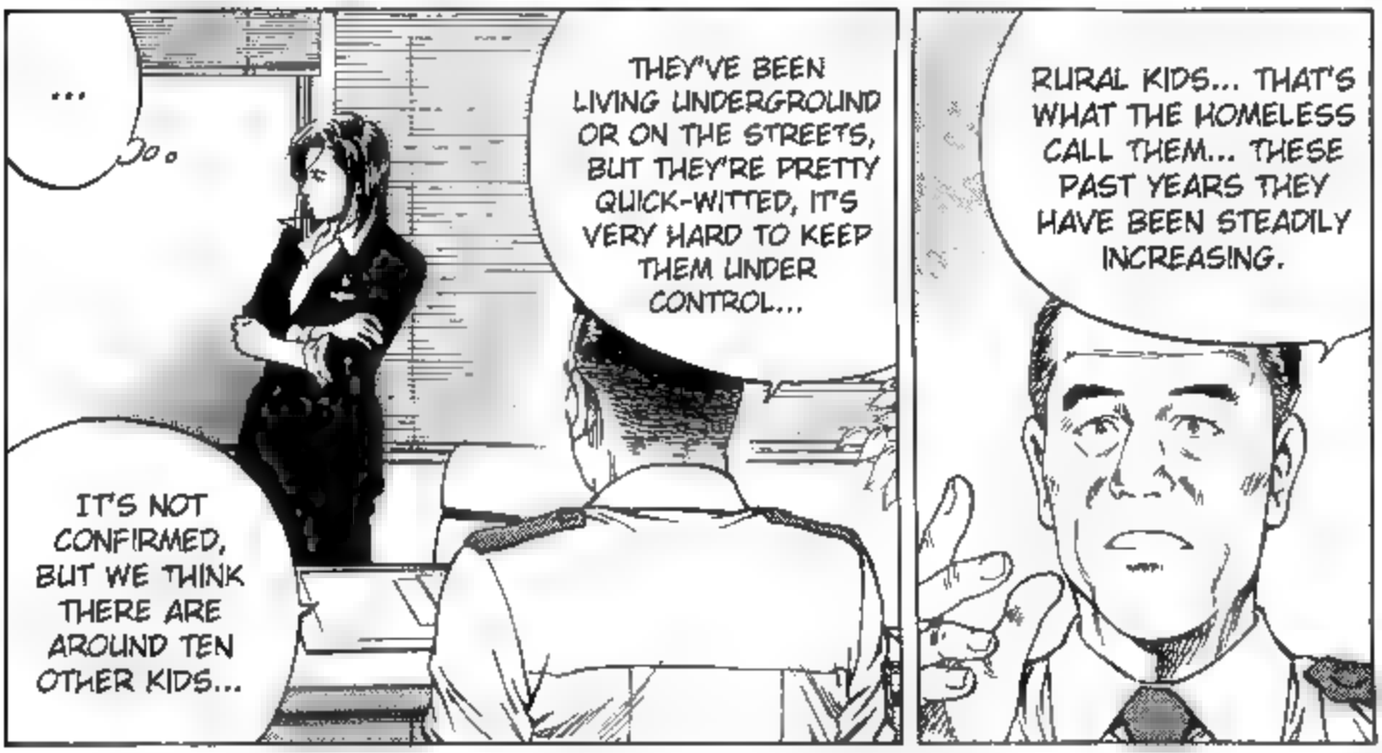
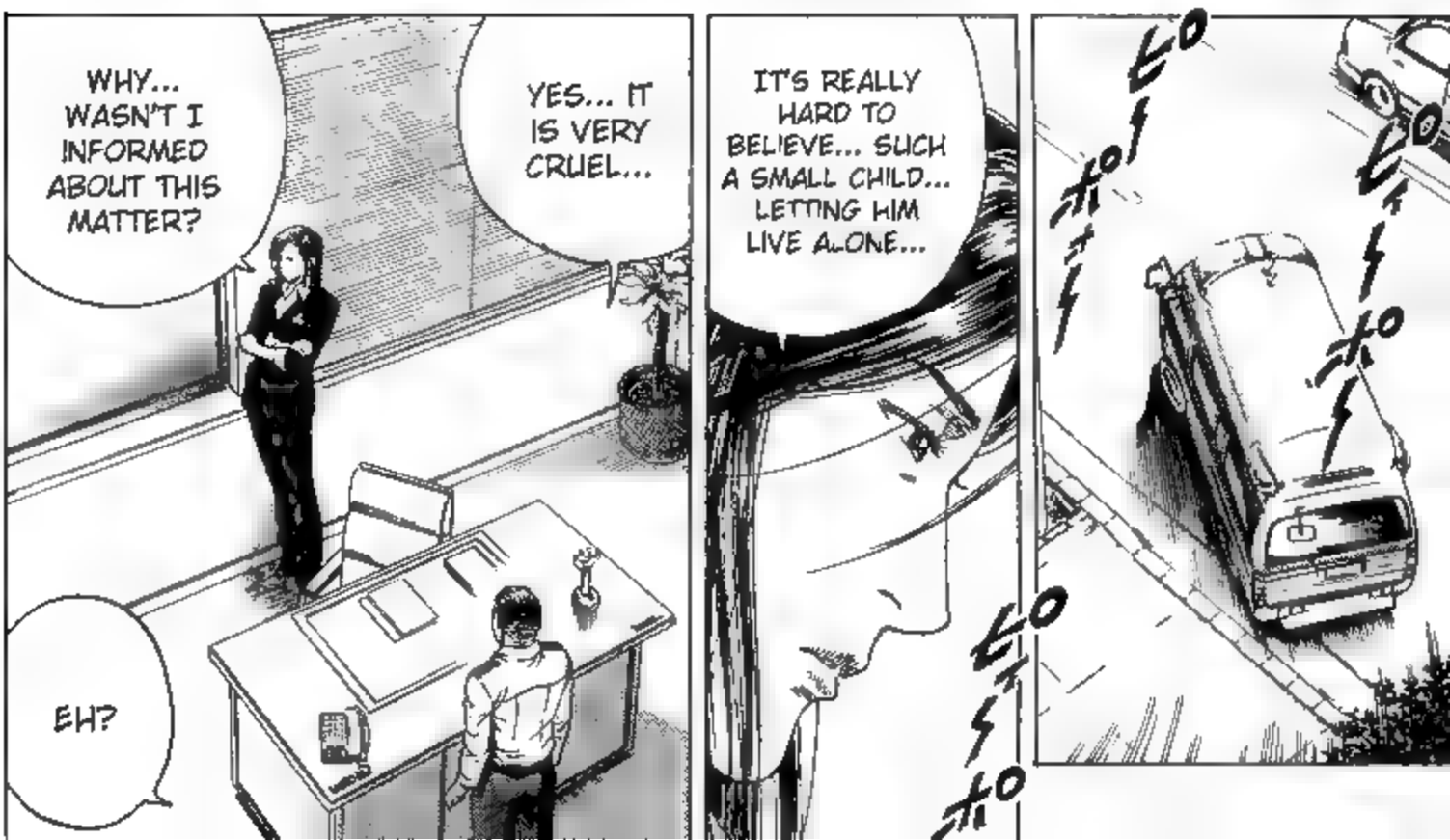
Chapter 139 Saeko's Reciprocation

THIS WAY, HURRY!
警視庁新宿西警察署
SHINJUKUNISHI POLICE STATION
WHAT'S HAPPENING? CALLING AN AMBULANCE TO THE BUREAU ...
OUT OF THE WAY! CLEAR THE PATH, PLEASE!

HEY! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN ...
AH... JUST A MOMENT AGO A STREET CHILD UNDER OUR CARE FAINTED...
CHIEF! I'M REALLY SORRY!
EVEN THOUGH HE APPEARS EXTREMELY MAL-NOURISHED, HIS LIFE IS UNDER NO PRESENT DANGER.
... AND THE KID'S MOTHER...?
STREET CHILD?

ANOTHER ONE?
MAYBE THE CHILD OF A RUNAWAY OR HOMELESS GIRL... OR FROM A PROSTITUTE... ANOTHER ONE LEFT BEHIND BY THAT KIND OF PERSON...


...
THEY'VE BEEN LIVING UNDERGROUND OR ON THE STREETS, BUT THEY'RE PRETTY QUICK-WITTED, IT'S VERY HARD TO KEEP THEM UNDER CONTROL...
IT'S NOT CONFIRMED, BUT WE THINK THERE ARE AROUND TEN OTHER KIDS...
RURAL KIDS... THAT'S WHAT THE HOMELESS CALL THEM... THESE PAST YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN STEADILY INCREASING.


WHY... WASN'T I INFORMED ABOUT THIS MATTER?
YES... IT IS VERY CRUEL...
EH?
IT'S REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE... SUCH A SMALL CHILD... LETTING HIM LIVE ALONE...

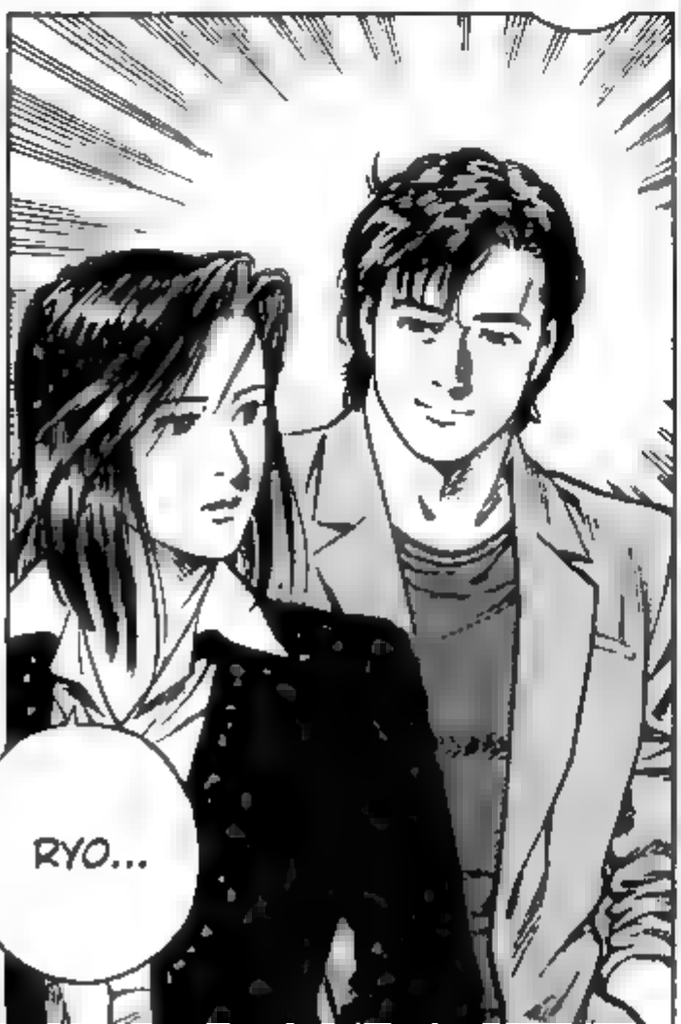
I THINK THAT'S FOR ME TO DECIDE!
GO AND WRITE A REPORT ON WHAT'S BEEN FOUND BY THE INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT!
INSIGNI-FICANT?
THERE WERE MANY IMPORTANT CASES, SO SOMETHING INSIGNIFICANT LIKE THIS WOULD ONLY...
COULD IT BE THAT THE IRON WOMAN HAS MOTHERLY LOVE?
WHAT'S SHE SO MAD ABOUT?
...
I'M SORRY, THIS WAS A TERRIBLE OVERSIGHT. I-I'LL START IMMEDIATELY ...
N-NO, IT'S NOTHING!
WHAT IS IT?
Such sharp hearing ...!

THAT GIRL... IS SHE ONE OF THE STREET CHILDREN...

IF THAT'S THE CASE—
THEN I NEED TO FIND HER QUICKLY ...

HEYA!

...


RYO...

カラオケ天国
KARAOKE HEAVEN
I WANT TO LEAVE THEM ALL BEHIND~
ALL OF THESE
PRETENTIOUS ME~
PRETENTIOUS MAN
IMMERSED IN YOUR HYPOCRITICAL EYES~
...!
...!
AH... I FEEL MUCH BETTER!

You...
WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO FREQUENT KARAOKES BY YOURSELF?
YEAH! WHENEVER I'M ALL STRESSED OUT! I LIKE ENJOYING MYSELF THIS WAY~
Singing three songs in a row...
BUT IT IS REALLY RARE, ASKING ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU.
SHE'S ALREADY USED TO SPENDING TIME BY HERSELF...
GEEZ ...
OKAY... LET'S SING TO OUR HEARTS' CONTENT!
HEY, SAEKO!
THAT GIRL APPEARS BEFORE UNHAPPY PEOPLE, BRINGING THEM LUCK...
...

WHETHER IT'S KARAOKE OR JUST HAVING SOME DRINKS, LET ME ACCOMPANY YOU.
...?
NEXT TIME YOU'RE FEELING DOWN... JUST MESSAGE ME XYZ OKAY?
WHEN THE TIME COMES THAT THE STRESS IS UNBEARABLE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LONELY... YOU CAN CALL ME.
...
HNNN ...
I SEE... SO THAT'S YOUR GAME...
YOU REALLY ARE...
AH! THAT'S REALLY GROSS! WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO NICE TO ME...
BEING LONESOME... THAT KIND OF FEELING... DO YOU EVER GET THAT?

YOU'RE... FEELING SYMPATHY FOR ME RIGHT...
NO... YOU GOT IT WRONG—
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME TELL ME! TELL ME
WHEN HAVE I EVER BEEN LONELY? LONELY? LONELY
HEY, PLEASE DON'T USE THE MIC TO TALK TO ME
HEY YOU!
YOU BETTER START TALKING NOW! NOW NOW

SAEKO ...?
IT'S YOU...
ドン
HEY, SAEKO!?
HEY... DON'T GO!
ス...
WAIT FOR ME!
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT...
WHA ...

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野上冴子
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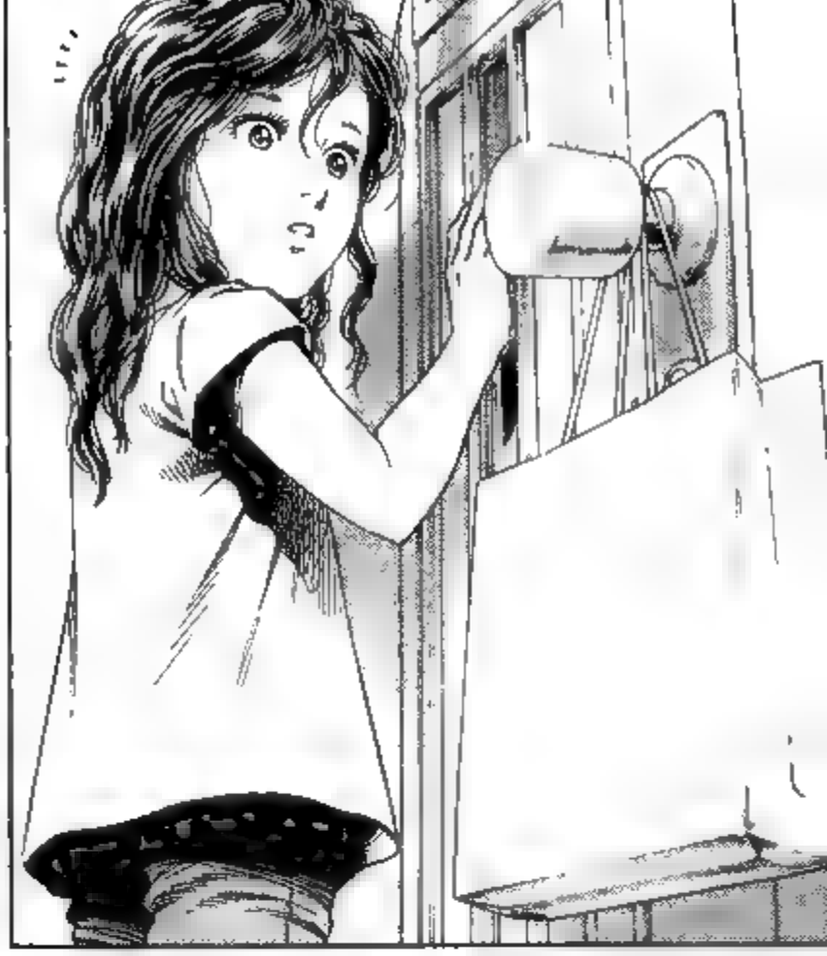
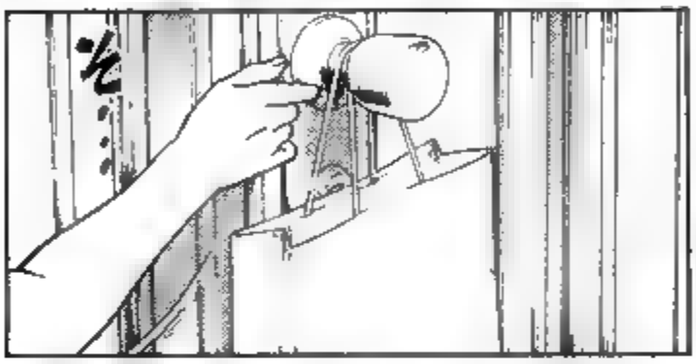
...?





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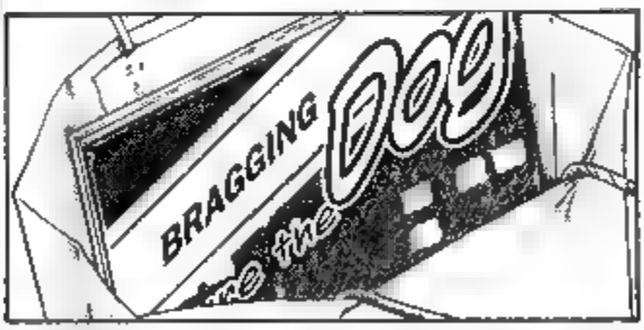
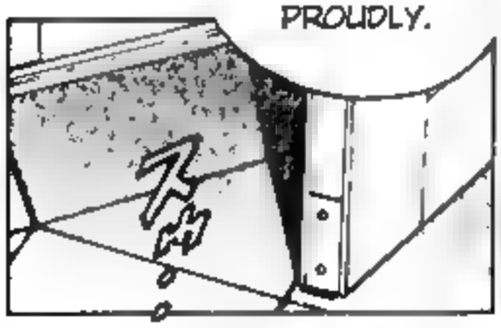

BRAGGING
the Dee

A NICE
...
...
"CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE SAYING?"
... THE PUPPY WAS SURPRISED, AND SAID TO THE LITTLE GIRL,
...

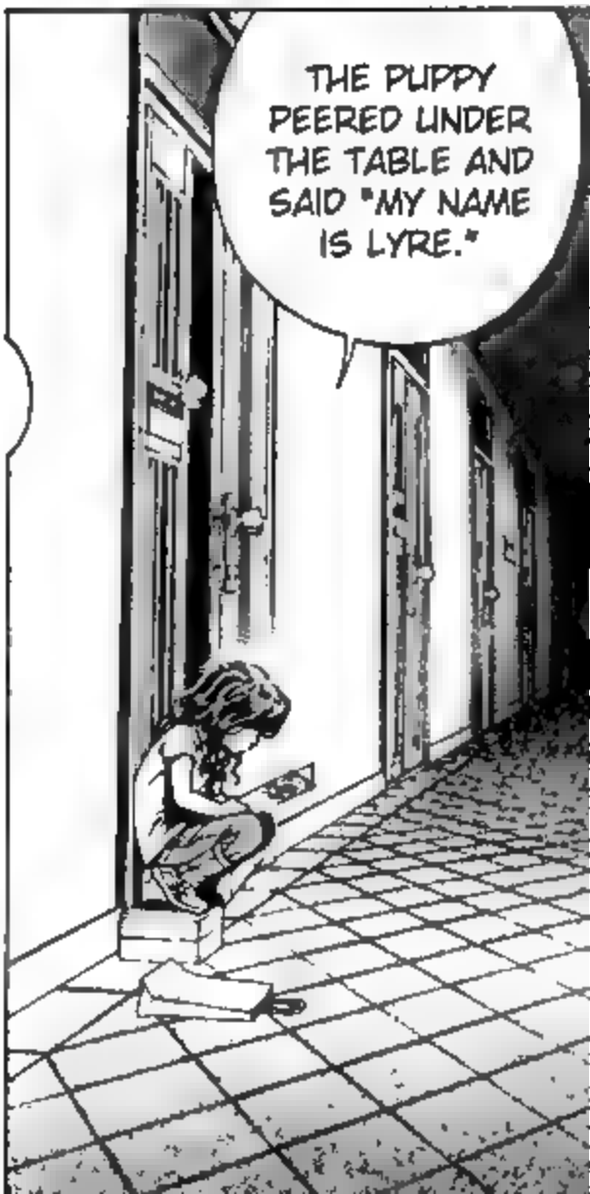
...

"HM, OF COURSE. WHO ARE YOU?" ASKED THE GIRL.

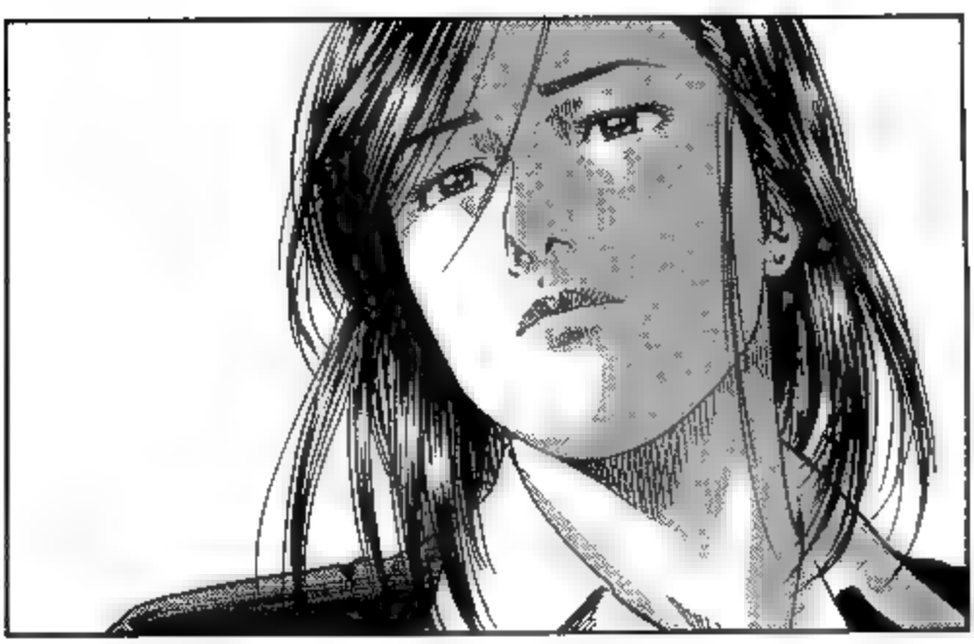
"WHY DID YOU ENTER FROM THE WINDOW?"
BRAGGING
Lyre the Dog


"I CAN'T LET YOU HEAR MY STORY FOR FREE," LYRE THE PUPPY SAID PROUDLY.

"THOUGH, IF YOU WANT TO HEAR MORE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME THE SOUP THAT'S ON THE TABLE."
...
BRAGGING


THE PUPPY PEERED UNDER THE TABLE AND SAID "MY NAME IS LYRE."

...
LYRE FINISHED THE SOUP IN AN INSTANT ...
THE GIRL SMILED SWEETLY AND NODDED HER HEAD.
I WONDER IF YOU LIKED IT... THAT BOOK.
I'M AMAZED, YOU CAN READ SO WELL!
...



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PROOFREADER: DRPEPPERPRO
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EDITOR: DRPEPPERPRO
QC: MIYAGICE

Angel Heart

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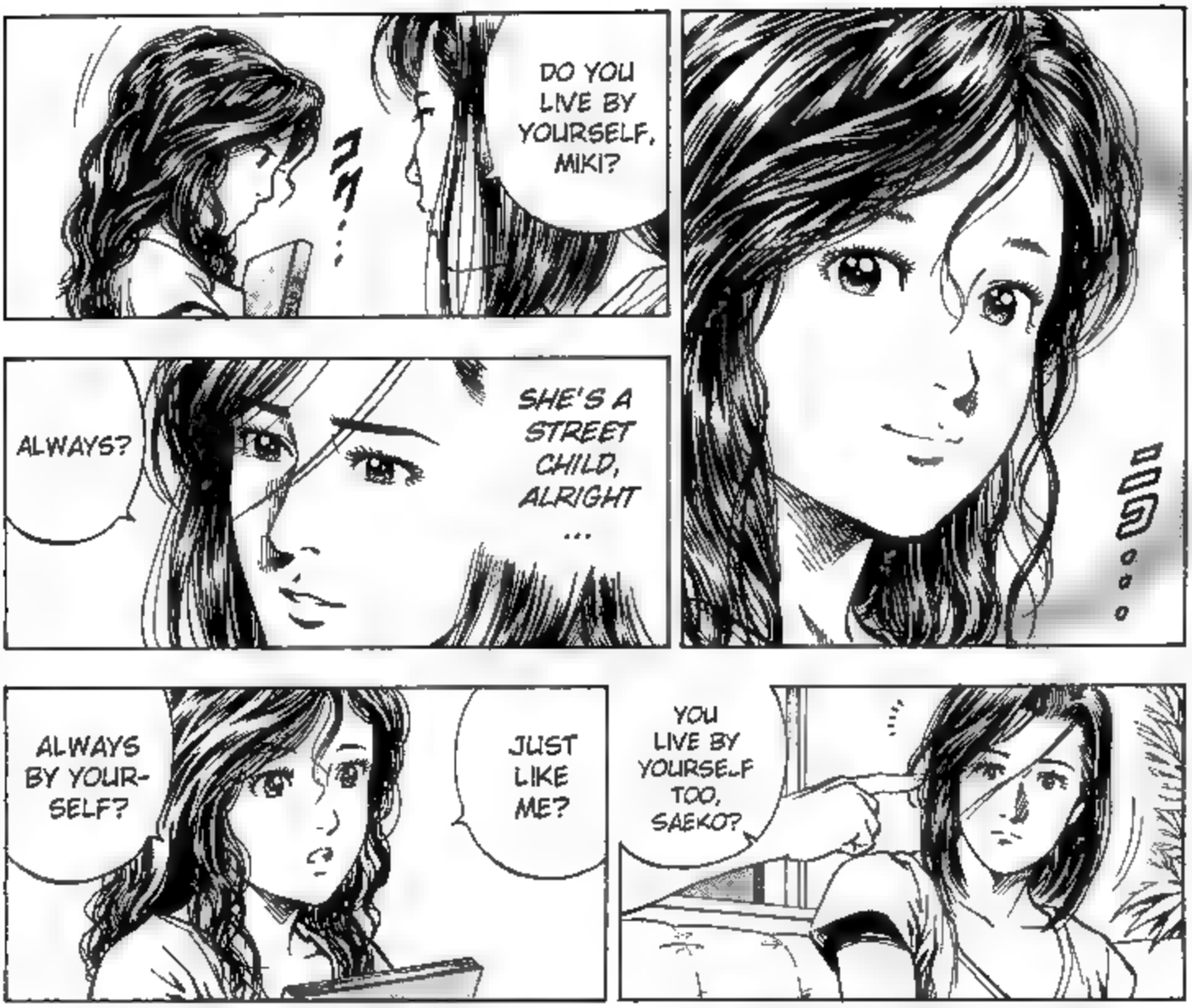
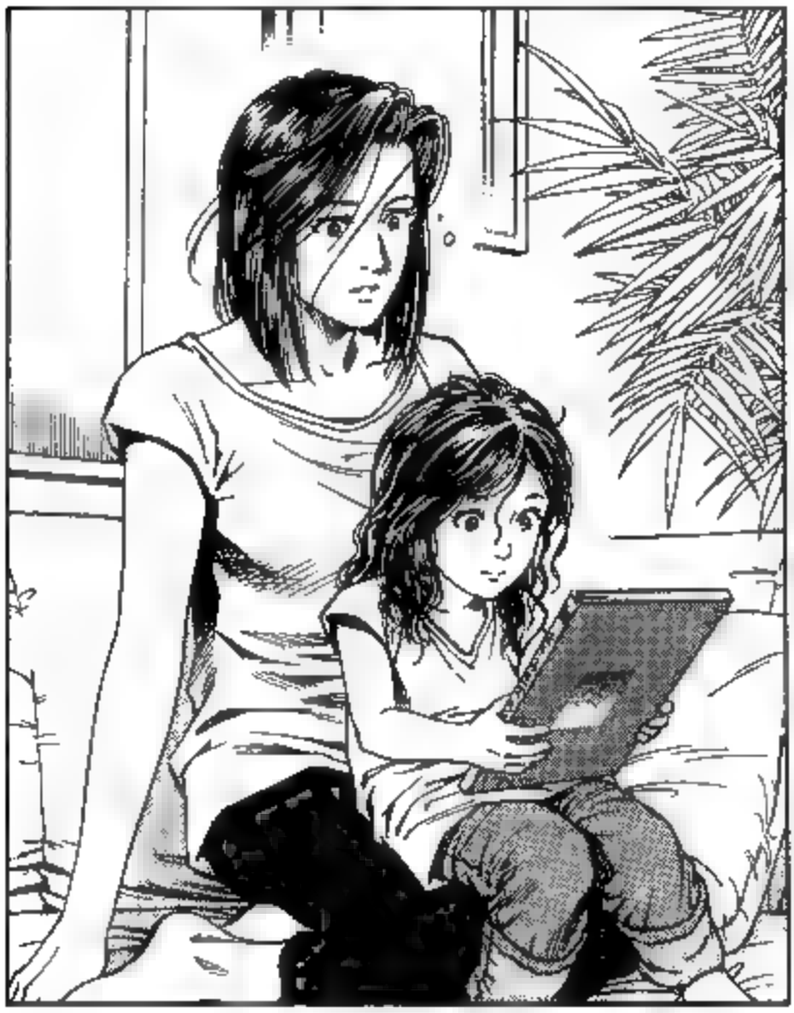
Chapter 140 Dream of Wishful Desires

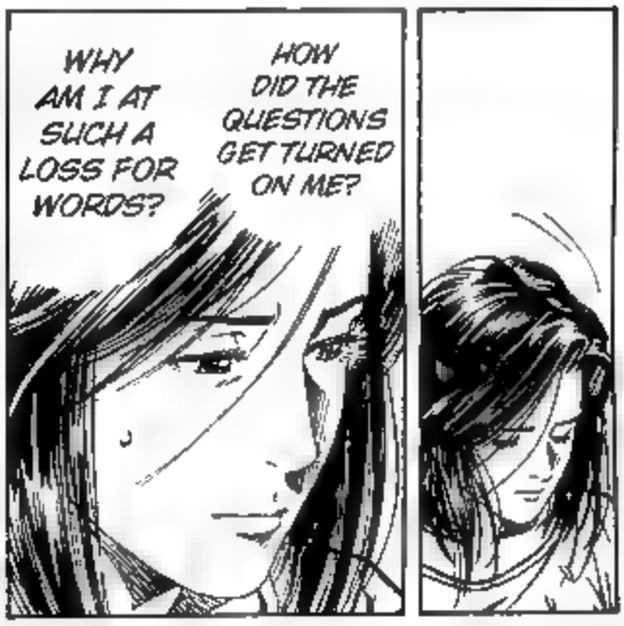
...
SO? PRETTY, ISN'T IT?
I REALLY LIKE THE VIEW FROM HERE.
YOU WANT ANYTHING TO DRINK? ARE YOU HUNGRY?
...

...
WHY WON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?
YOU WERE READING SO WELL JUST EARLIER, TOO.
...
I'M SAEKO. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MIKI! WHAT A NICE NAME.
... MIKI
...

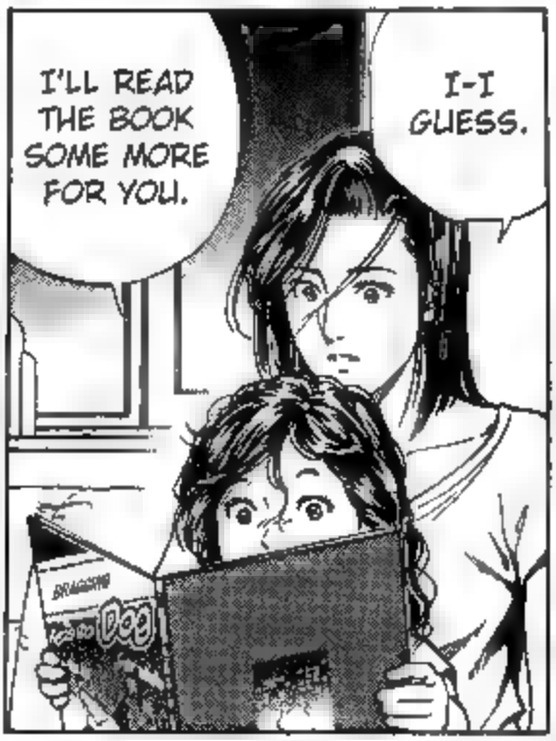

DO YOU LIVE BY YOURSELF, MIKI?
ﾌﾈ…
ﾆｺﾆｺ…
SHE'S A STREET CHILD, ALRIGHT …
ALWAYS?
ALWAYS BY YOUR-SELF?
JUST LIKE ME?
YOU LIVE BY YOURSELF TOO, SAEKO?
YOU LIVE IN THIS BIG HOUSE ALL BY YOURSELF. AREN'T YOU LONELY?
ME…? YES… I LIVE ALONE.
EH?

WHY? WELL...
THEN WHY DO YOU LIVE ALONE?
IF YOU LIVED WITH ANOTHER ADULT, THEN YOU COULD BECOME THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE.
A LITTLE, MAYBE. IT'S A BIT LONESOME.
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE LONELY WHEN I MADE MY DECISION ...
...
IT'S NOT LIKE... I WANT TO.
YOU CAN'T, SAEKO?
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'D BE LONELY ALL BY YOURSELF.
WHY ...?
SO YOU CHOSE TO BE LONELY?




WHY AM I AT SUCH A LOSS FOR WORDS?
HOW DID THE QUESTIONS GET TURNED ON ME?

LET ME SEE...
Y-YES, PLEASE.


I'LL READ THE BOOK SOME MORE FOR YOU.
I-I GUESS.

YOU AREN'T LONELY IF I'M HERE, RIGHT?

THE GIRL HAD NEVER BEFORE LEFT THE ROOM BECAUSE SHE WAS BEDRIDDEN.
...
LYRE FINISHED THE SOUP IN AN INSTANT. "WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR?" LYRE ASKED. "I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT IT'S LIKE OUTSIDE," THE GIRL SAID.
NO, MAYBE... I HAD ONLY FORGOTTEN.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT SOMETHING SO SIMPLE COULD GIVE SOMEONE SUCH HAPPINESS.
...
...
"I'M A PRINCE, YOU KNOW," LYRE THEN SAID PROUDLY...
BRAGGING
Lyre the Dog
SO COMFOR-TABLE?
WHY DO I FEEL ...
THE ONLY THING THAT THE GIRL COULD SEE WAS THE COLOR OF THE SKY FROM THE WINDOW.
I DIDN'T THINK THIS WOULD GIVE ME SUCH PEACE OF MIND...
THE WEIGHT OF THIS GIRL'S BODY, THE WARMTH OF HER SKIN...
HOW STRANGE ...

ｽｽ…
SAEKO …
GOOD NIGHT…
…
GOOD MORNING, MAMA!

クスン
MAMA! I'M NOT A BABY!
GOOD MORNING, MY BABY!
KISS
MIKI, WHERE'S YOUR PAPA AND SIS?
I DUNNO-
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE STILL ASLEEP.
PAPA, SIS. WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING? IT'S TIME TO EAT!
munch munch
WAAH!
ハッ
ハッ
ハッ

I'LL BE OFF NOW!
GOOD MORNING, MAMA!
AH-SHAN, WHAT ABOUT BREAK-FAST?
THEN HERE'S YOUR LUNCH.
I'VE GOT MORNING PRACTICE TODAY. I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EAT.
GOOD MORNING, SHIN-HON.
HEY! GOOD MORNING, SHANIN.
SANKYOU!
...
BE BACK LATER!

REALLY, THAT CHILD ...
SHE'S ALWAYS IN A RUSH!
WELL, MIKI, IT'S TIME TO GO TO SCHOOL!
OKAY, PAPA!

DARLING, WAIT A MINUTE.
HM?
AH AH...
LOOK, YOUR TIE'S CROOKED AGAIN.
THANKS, WE'LL BE GOING NOW, SAEKO.
kiss
WE'RE GOING, MAMA!
OKAY, GOODBYE.

AH... G-GOOD MORNING.
AH, MR. SAEBA. GOOD MORNING TO YOU.
...
ほへ〜
PAPA MOKKORI-
SAEKO, YOU'RE MIS-TAKEN. THIS HAPPENS EVERY TIME I WAKE UP ...
JERK!
...
EH— AWHA WAH!

Saeko!
Mama!
THAT RYO, GOING TOO FAR!
DAMN!
ガラ…
…?
I REALLY LOVE YOU!
LET'S DO OUR BEST!
LET'S DO OUR BEST TONIGHT TO MAKE OUR THIRD CHILD!
I LOVE YOU SAEKO!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING! THE NEIGHBORS CAN HEAR YOU!
WHA…
…

THAT ...
IDIOT ...
...
BYE~
WE'RE GOING NOW!
...?
... A DREAM?
HUH? AM I... ALL ALONE?
DARLING~
COME BACK SAFE!

THIS IS DUMB... I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE...

MIKI, WHERE ARE YOU!?
MIKI!?

MIKI!
ARE THOSE MY INNER DESIRES? AND I DREAMED OF THAT LOVEY-DOVEY FAMILY?

Ha!
Ha!
Ha!

MIKI!
A DREAM...
WHY DID I HAVE THAT DREAM—

Ha!
DO I REALLY WANT THAT FOR MYSELF?
I LAUGHED AT THAT SORT OF THING WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
Ha...
FISHED IT OUT FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART ...?
THAT GIRL...
Ha!
Ha!
Ha!
...
I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THIS...
AHAHA HAHAHA ...
I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT. WHAT A JOKE! I'M SO MUSHY!
...
AHAHA HAHAHA ...
AHA ...

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Chapter 141 Umibozu and Zashiki-Warashi

THE PUPPY WAS ALWAYS IN THE DARK.
BRAGGING
THE HUNGRY PUPPY TRUDGED ON...
MANY TALL, TALL BUILDINGS STOOD IN ROWS, AND IT WAS AS THOUGH THE LIGHT WOULD NEVER REACH HIM.
...

DO YOU WANNA LISTEN?
...
SORRY, I INTER-RUPTED YOU.
H"
YOU'LL READ IT FOR ME?
S-SURE.
WANNA HEAR ME READ THIS PICTURE BOOK?
...?
...
THE FRIED SHRIMP HE HAD FOUND IN A GARBAGE CAN AT THE RESTAURANT WAS SNATCHED AWAY BY AN OLDER BLACK DOG.
UM ...
THE HUNGRY PUPPY TRUDGED ON IN THE DARKNESS.
YEAH, I WILL!
HMPH... I WONDER WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME ...?

THE PUPPY TURNED HIS MUDDY FACE TOWARD THE SKY, WHERE NEITHER THE STARS NOR ANYTHING ELSE COULD BE SEEN.
...
"OH? WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?" ASKED THE PUPPY.
IN THE DARKNESS A LIGHT APPEARED. IT WAS A WINDOW!
A WARM LIGHT FILTERED THROUGH THE WINDOW...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH UMIBOZU TODAY?
HE'S JUST A BIG LOLICON!
...?
HE'S LOVE-SICK!
I'VE DISCOVERED THAT SULLEN OLD MAN'S TRUE IDENTITY!
...
BRAGGING DOG

I CAN'T READ THE WORDS.
ACTUALLY, MY EYES ...
...
HERE! SINCE YOU LIKE THIS STORY, I'LL LET YOU BORROW IT!
...
EVERY DAY, AS SOON AS IT STARTS GETTING DARK, HE WALTZES ON OUT.
HE SAYS SOME GIRL READS FOR HIM.
THEN... I'LL READ IT FOR YOU AGAIN! WE'LL CONTINUE IT TOMORROW!
H-HEY!
PICTURE BOOK ...?
...

HAS UMIBOZU BEEN ACTING STRANGE SINCE THEN?
YEAH, MORE AND MORE EVERY DAY— LIKE A COMPLETE IDIOT.
DO YOU THINK THAT GIRL IS THE ZASHIKI-WARASHI FROM BEFORE?
BEATS ME...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I HOPE MORE CUSTOMERS SHOW UP!
...
KLANG!
YO~!
Oh, it's Mr. Saeba
OH? WHERE'S UMI?
AH, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU RYO-PAPA.
EH?

The guests run away again—

ﾊｧ…

WOAH THERE! AT LEAST LET ME HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE!

COME!

ｷｬｯｷｬｯ

H-HEY!

I'M HEADING OUT FOR A BIT.

…

ﾌﾞﾙﾙﾙﾙﾙﾙ

WHO ARE YOU CALLING A LOLI-CON?

ｶﾞﾀｯ

LOLICON MASTER!

GOT IT, PLEASE DO COME BACK EARLIER!

YOU CAN'T HIT ME WITH SUCH A WEAK PUNCH YOU KNOW!

THUD

This place is gonna break apart before long...

HMPH!

SAEKO'S KINDA OUT OF IT AS WELL... IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS SINCE SHE LEFT WORK.

YEAH ...

SO UMIBOZU'S MET THE ZASHIKI-WARASHI TOO, THEN...

What's lucky about that? That kid just brings bad luck.
REALLY... WHAT'S WITH THIS KID ANYWAY?
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN HANDLE THE OCTOPUS BEING LIKE THAT TOO!
PIPELINE MAINTENANCE ACCESS
HE'S GETTING PRETTY CLOSE, TOO.
I FOUND OUT EXACTLY WHERE THAT KID LIVES.
...!
This thing wasn't locked?
...
I WAS STAKING OUT SAEKO'S APARTMENT, WAITING FOR THAT GIRL TO APPEAR.

はあああ…あ
I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING..
THIS ISN'T GOOD...
…
IT'S LIKE I'M NOT EVEN ALIVE ANYMORE …
はあああ

BRAGGING

Lyre the Dog

FALCON?

HA!

...

SA-SAEKO?

WHAT'S THIS BOOK DOING HERE?!

WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS?!

WELL, WELL... ARE WE FINALLY AT THE LAST STOP ON THE MAP?

THE [illegible] SECTION LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN SEALED OFF FOR A LONG TIME.

SO THERE ARE RUINS LIKE THESE UNDER SHINJUKU... EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...

WELL NOW, THIS WOULD [illegible]

!

MAYBE THEY DIDN'T CUT ALL THE POWER LINES WHEN THEY CLOSED THE PLACE.

THERE'S LIGHTS ON IN SOME PLACES, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE AIR CONDITIONING COMING IN FROM SOMEWHERE AS

...
SO THIS IS THE ZASHIKI-
...

YEAH... SHE MUST'VE BEEN LIVING HERE WITH HER PARENTS...
BUT THIS ISN'T SOMETHING A KID COULD PUT TOGETHER ALL BY HERSELF...
...
NOT TO MENTION IT'S STUCK ON THE WALL NEXT TO THE BED, WHERE IT CAN BE EASILY READ.
THAT LETTER LOOKS PRETTY OLD,
...
Dear Miki,
Mama went out to take care of some business. I'll be back soon, so please wait for me.
-Mama
I THINK THAT KID'S MOTHER LEFT AND NEVER CAME BACK...

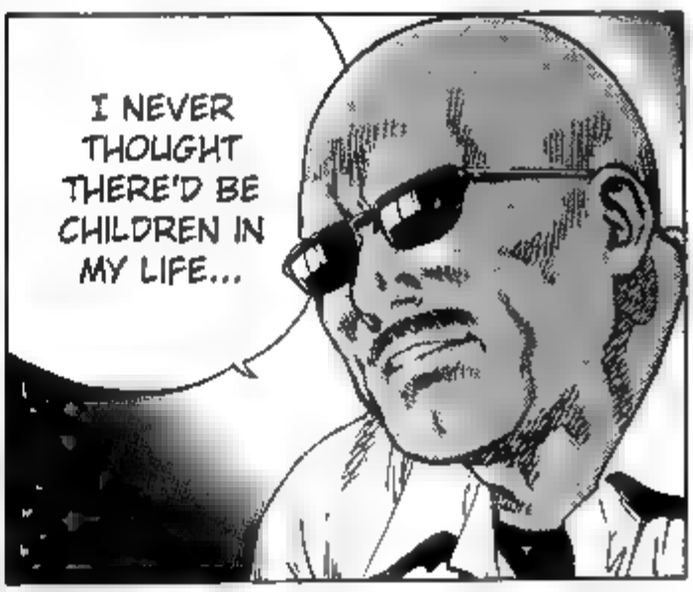
WHY CAN'T I GET THAT GIRL OUT OF MY HEAD?

AT FIRST I COULDN'T LEAVE HER ALONE BECAUSE I'M WITH THE POLICE, BUT NOW...

...

...
OR RATHER, I HATED THEM... AND KIDS WERE AFRAID OF ME AND COULDN'T GET CLOSE...
BUT WHEN I HEAR THAT GIRL'S VOICE AS SHE READS ME THE BOOK...

ME TOO.


I NEVER THOUGHT THERE'D BE CHILDREN IN MY LIFE...

UMM...

IT'S LIKE... THERE'S A WARM FEELING... THAT FILLS MY HEART... AND...

IT WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME...

...

I GUESS THIS MEANS WE'RE GETTING OLD... DOESN'T IT ..

... AFTER ALL...

KAA

HA HA HA HA HA!

Dear Miki,
Mama went out to take care of some business. I'll be back soon, so please wait for me.
-Mama

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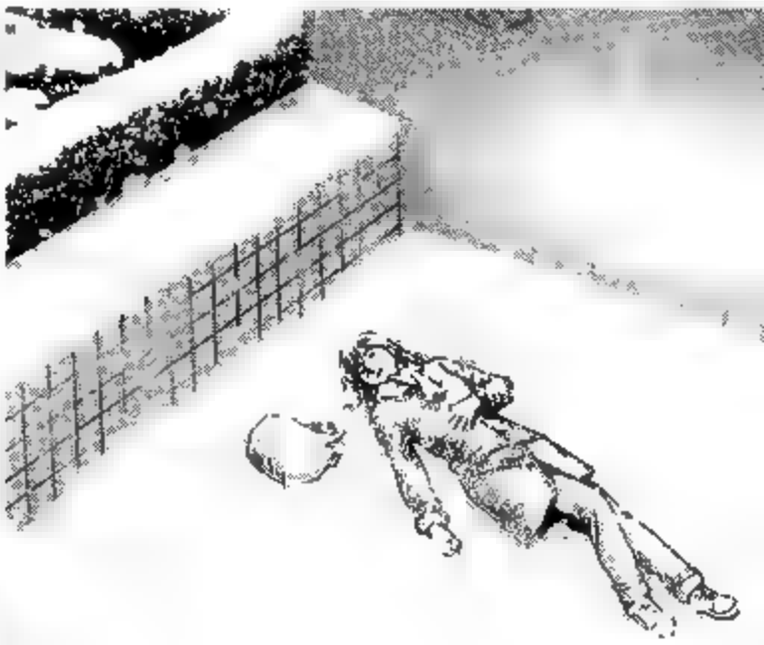
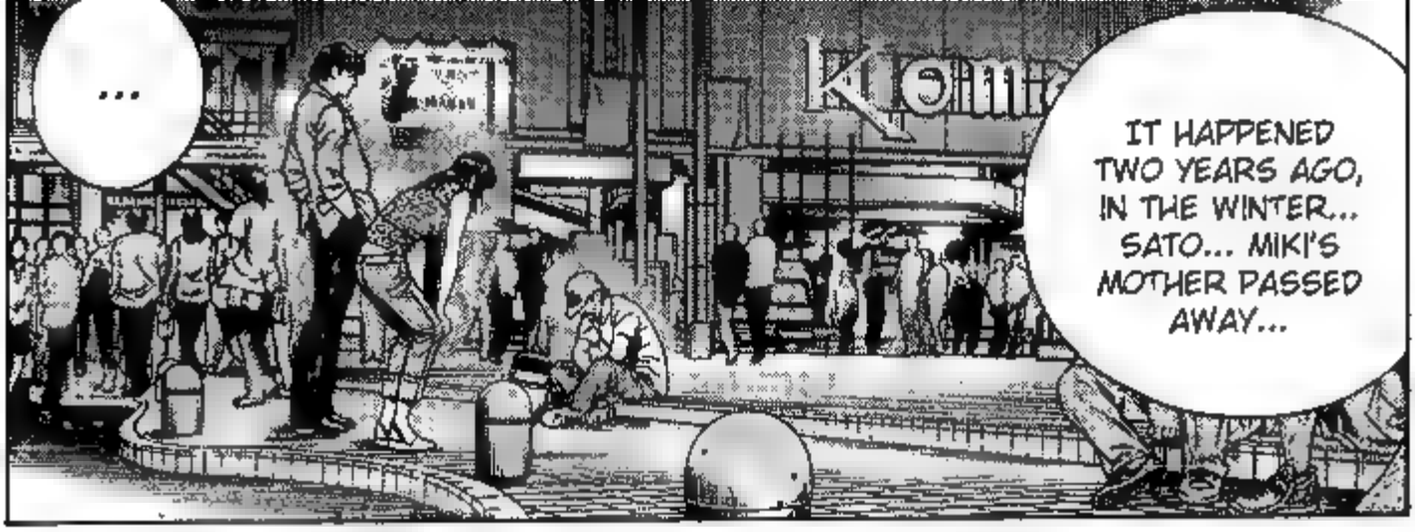
Chapter 142 Pure and Untainted Heart



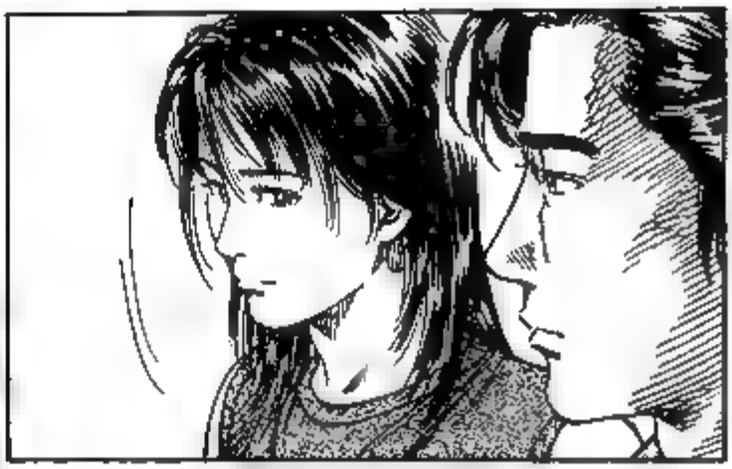
SATO
...?

YOU'RE SATO, AREN'T YOU? WHAT HAPPENED!?

TAKE CARE OF HIM!
FLASH
ANYWAY, LET'S GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
SATO...
AND, SHE...
SATO--!
...


...
IT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO, IN THE WINTER... SATO... MIKI'S MOTHER PASSED AWAY...

YES ...
MIKI'S BEEN LIVING IN THOSE UNDERGROUND CITY RUINS ALL BY HERSELF?



SO EVER SINCE THEN,

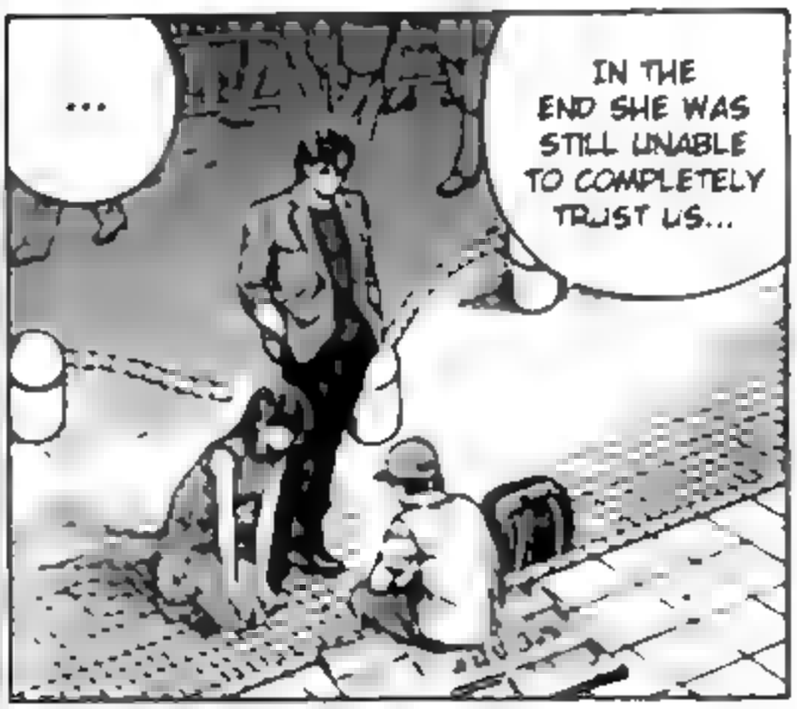
SHE HAS INDEED GROWN UP ALOT...

AFTER UNDER-STANDING THE SITUATION, SHE WAS EVEN ABLE TO LOCATE THIS MAN.
SHANIN... IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS SINCE FINDING THAT KID'S PLACE.

...

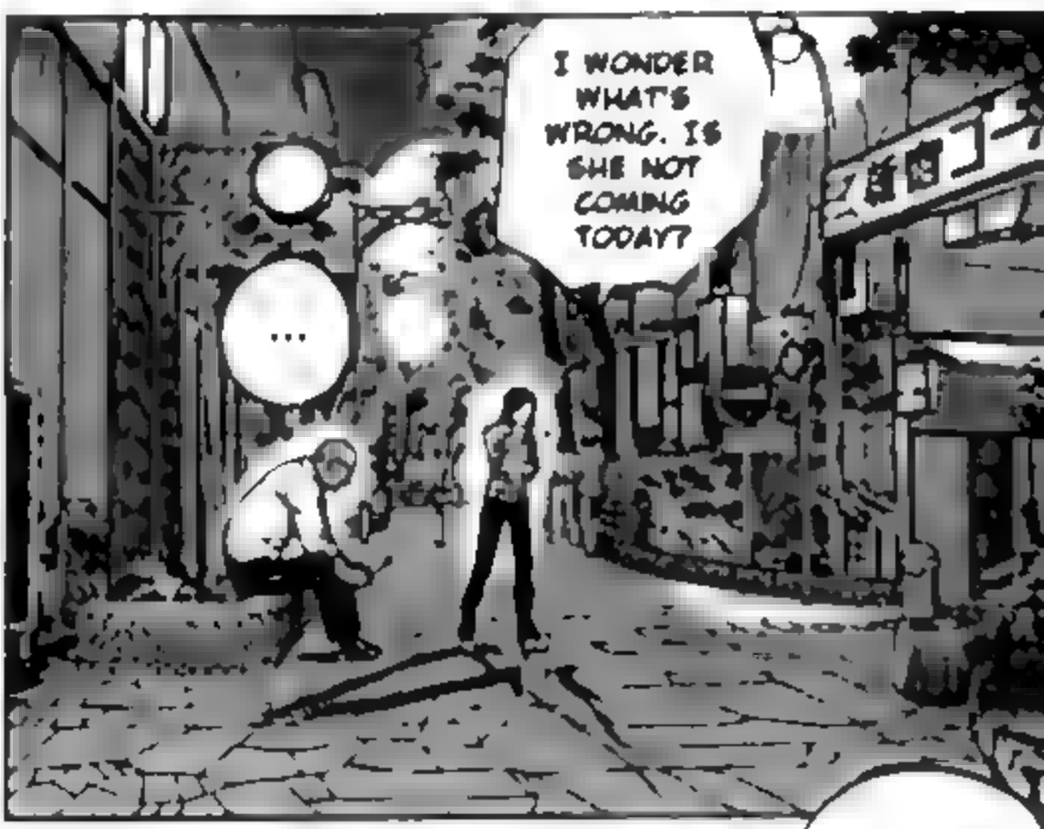
WELL, I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS...
RIGHT... WHAT SORT OF PERSON WAS MIKI'S MOTHER?
NO, NOTHING
WHAT'S WRONG RYO-PAPA?
BUT IT SEEMS SHE WAS ALREADY PREGNANT WITH MIKI WHEN SHE CAME HERE...
PROBABLY. SHE WAS A RUNAWAY.
YET... BY HER INNOCENT FACE, I COULDN'T TELL IF SHE HAD EVEN GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL OR NOT
BUT IT MUST'VE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HER
SHE KEPT TO HERSELF WITHOUT ASSOCIATING WITH THE REST OF US.
I COULDN'T STAND SEEING HER LIKE THAT, SO I OFFERED MANY TIMES TO HELP HER OUT, BUT
SHE FOUND A PLACE TO STAY, GAVE BIRTH TO MIKI, AND RAISED HER

EN
54


...
IN THE END SHE WAS STILL UNABLE TO COMPLETELY TRUST US...

SHE'S LATE!

SHE WILL COME. IF YOU'RE TIRED OF WAITING, YOU CAN GO ON HOME


...
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG. IS SHE NOT COMING TODAY?

So...

SHE PROMISED SHE WILL READ THE PICTURE BOOK FOR ME TODAY
MIKI'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON THAT BREAKS PROMISES.

ACTUALLY I DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO DISTURB MY TIME WITH MIKI ..
...
NO THANKS, I'LL WAIT. I WANT TO SEE MIKI TOO.
...
WHAT? MIKI AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONGER TIME THAN YOU!
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS! SHE HASN'T BEEN SEEING YOU RECENTLY, RIGHT? I THINK MIKI'S ALREADY TIRED OF YOU!
OF COURSE THAT WOULD BE ME! FURTHER-MORE THIS BOOK WAS GIVEN TO HER BY ME!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
YOU JUST GOT IN THE MIDDLE, AND YOU'RE TALKING LIKE THAT!
HMPH! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TIME SPENT, THE IMPORTANT THING IS WHOSE FRIEND-SHIP IS MORE PROFOUND!
MIKI!?
MIKI!
CAN'T STAND YOU GUYS, BICKERING LIKE HUSBAND AND WIFE...

IN THAT CASE, WHY ARE YOU LETTING MIKI LIVE ALL ALONE UNDERGROUND LIKE THAT?

I give up...

THAT ...

WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK EVERYBODY TO HELP TAKE CARE OF HER?

YOU SHOULD'VE CONTACTED THE POLICE SO THEY COULD SEND HER TO AN ORPHANAGE...

TOME, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

SADABO, WHAT'S WRONG?

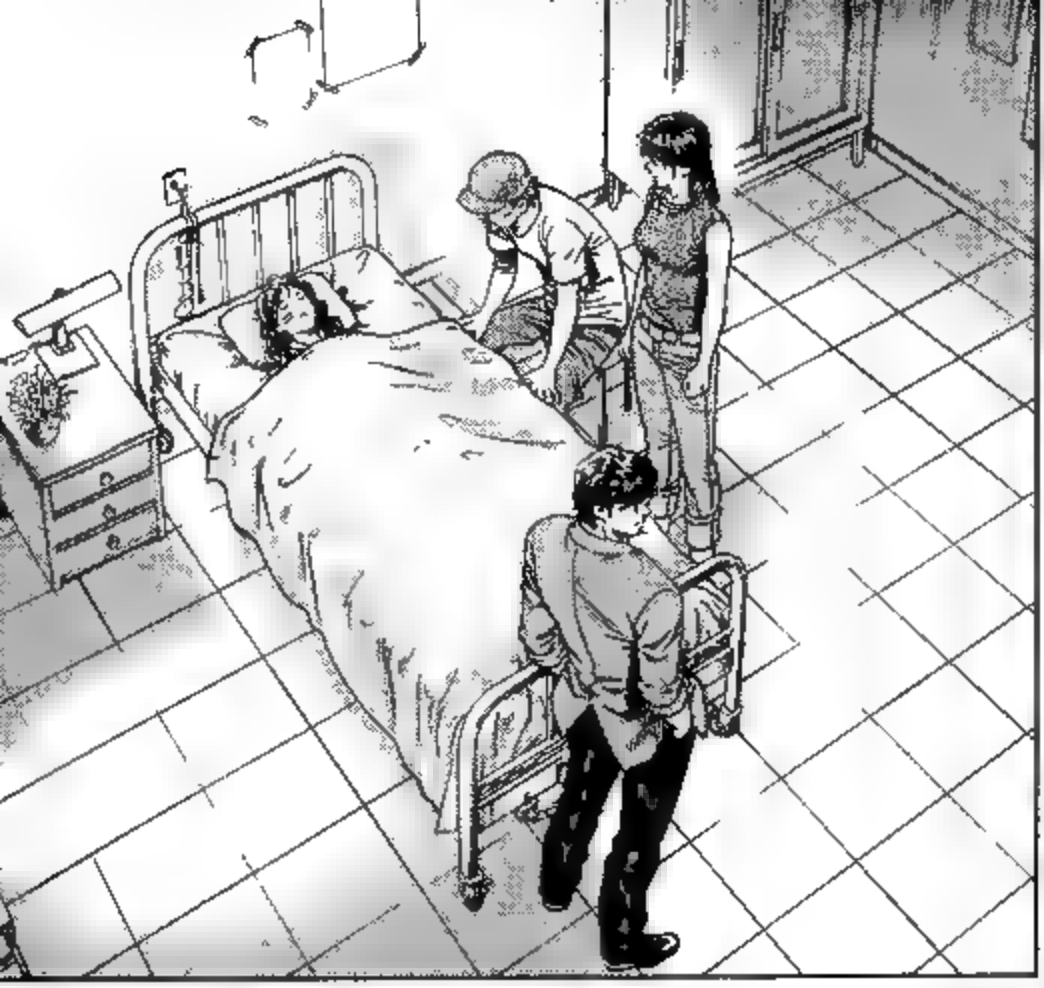
T-TOME ...

ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH OVER MIKI!

W-WE CAN'T DO THAT! NO, WE MUSTN'T!

MIKI... MIKI'S BEEN...!
I DON'T NEED TO GO BACK! IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'LL BE ANY CUSTOMERS.
IF EVEN THE BOSS SAYS THAT, HOW CAN THE STORE POSSIBLY GO ON!?
WHO ARE YOU REFERRING TO? GET UP ALREADY!
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU! JUST HURRY BACK! LEAVING THE STORE UNSUPERVISED AND COMING HERE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!?
HEY! SO CAN THE TWO OF YOU GO HOME ALREADY!
HELLO I'M KINDA BUSY RIGHT—
INCOMING CALL
SHANIN
090783
Chan Chau Chau—

A HIT AND RUN!?
THE ZASHIKI-WARASHI'S BEEN IN AN ACCI-DENT!?
MIKI, IS SHE ALRIGHT!? WHAT HOSPITAL'S SHE AT!?



花園診療所

FORTUNATELY, HER INJURIES ARE NOT LIFE-THREATENING...

... UNCLE ...

IS THAT TRUE! IS SHE REALLY ALRIGHT?
SO YOU CAN STOP THAT AND PUT ME DOWN!
They're so nervous, like an ordinary couple...

THERE WON'T BE ANY LONG-TERM DAMAGE, SO DON'T WORRY ...

What's up with both of them...
They look like a silly couple...

I... I'M HERE TOO! DOES IT HURT SOME-WHERE?
UNCLE'S RIGHT HERE! CAN YOU HEAR ME?

WHAT IS IT? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT?

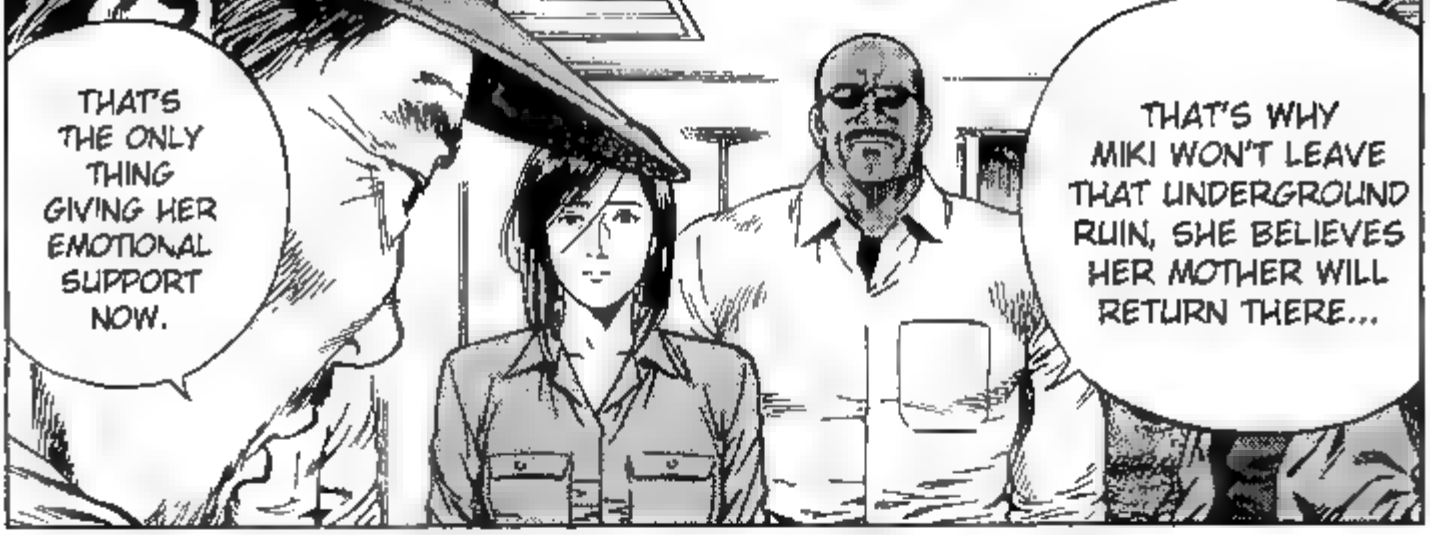
THIS? WE BROUGHT IT FOR YOU!

... THE BOOK...

I PROMISED TO READ YOU THE BOOK, BUT I DIDN'T MAKE IT.
SORRY ...
BRAGGING
Tyre the Dog
I'M REALLY... SORRY...
I'LL READ IT... FOR YOU NOW...
MIKI...

... I'LL ...
... READ IT...
SHE'S JUST ASLEEP FROM THE SEDATIVE! STOP THAT RACKET!
WUHU HUHU!
MIKI—!
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S BADLY INJURED, SHE STILL PLACES OTHERS BEFORE HERSELF...
SHE'S SO KIND.

BEING KIND TO OTHERS... IF SHE DOES THIS,
HER MOTHER WILL COME BACK. THAT'S WHAT MIKI BELIEVES.
THEN, MIKI DOESN'T KNOW THAT HER MOM IS DEAD!?
Dear Miki,
Mama went out to take care of some business. I'll be back soon, so please wait for me.
-Mama
MIKI THINKS THAT SATO, HER MOTHER, CAN'T COME BACK BECAUSE SHE HAS BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.
OR MORE PRECISELY, SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO DIE.
...


THAT'S THE ONLY THING GIVING HER EMOTIONAL SUPPORT NOW.
THAT'S WHY MIKI WON'T LEAVE THAT UNDERGROUND RUIN, SHE BELIEVES HER MOTHER WILL RETURN THERE...

AND IN DOING SO, SHE CAN FIND HAPPINESS...
TO NEVER TROUBLE OTHERS, THAT SHE MUST BE KIND TO PEOPLE.

...

SHE SAYS HER MOTHER ALWAYS TOLD HER.

SHE'S THINKING ONLY... ABOUT HOW TO BETTER HELP THEM...
...

THAT'S WHY WHEN SHE SEES PEOPLE WHO SEEM SAD IN THIS CITY, SHE CAN'T LEAVE THEM ALONE.

THIS GIRL BELIEVES THAT IF SHE KEEPS DOING THIS, HER MOTHER WILL RETURN.

...
THERE IS NO ONE MORE UNHAPPY THAN MIKI...
BUT MIKI HERSELF IS THE SADDEST PERSON IN THIS CITY ...
INDEED, SHE MAY BE THE MOST UNHAPPY CHILD IN THIS CITY ...
BUT SHE POSSESSES THIS CITY'S MOST UNTAINTED HEART.
A GIRL LIKE THIS WILL SURELY FIND HAPPINESS ...

[EVIL_GENIUS]

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TRANSLATOR: KANGXI
PROOFREADER: DRPEPPERPRO
RAWS: STALYN
EDITOR: DRPEPPERPRO
QC: MIYAGICE

Angel Heart

[Evil_Genius] needs Japanese/Chinese to English translators and experienced editors. Please contact Eldo if you are offering to help via PM at the forums, or send an email to eldoes@gmail.com. Your help is very much appreciated.

Chapter 143 Longing for Mama

?...
MAMA?
?...

MIKI...
YOU CAME BACK, MAMA!
MAMA? MAMAA?
DON'T LEAVE ME ANYMORE, MAMA!

MAMA
...
WE REALLY SHOULD TELL HER OF HER MOTHER'S DEATH!
MAMA
...?
...

SO WE DRAG MIKI OUT AGAINST HER WILL, STICK HER IN SOME INSTITUTION, AND PROBLEM SOLVED?
...
WE CAN'T JUST LET THAT YOUNG GIRL GO ON LIKE THIS! OR ELSE SOMETHING SIMILAR TO TODAY MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LET SUCH A SMALL CHILD KEEP ON LIVING IN SUCH A PLACE!
FALCON, I'M...
A VERY POLICE-LIKE ANSWER, SAEKO.
WHAT ABOUT HER FEELINGS?!
THEN WHAT'S THE BEST THING TO DO?!
I DON'T KNOW!
MIKI'S BELIEF THAT HER MOTHER WILL RETURN IS HER ONLY EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, ARE YOU GONNA TAKE THAT AWAY FROM HER?!

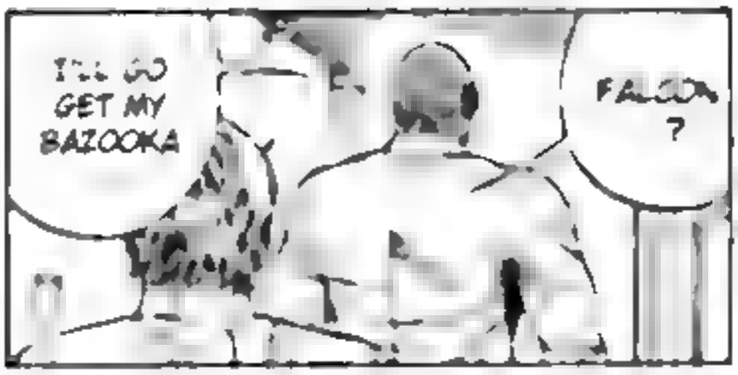
WE HAVE TO FACE THOSE FEELINGS OF HERS HEAD-ON.
I-IT'S NOT LIKE...
I KNOW EITHER...
...
FEELING SORRY FOR HER, THINKING THAT SHE'S HELPLESS... WE CAN'T HELP HER WITH SUCH SUPERFICIAL FEELINGS.
AH-SHAN ...?

KAORI ...?
PI RU RU RU RU
SORRY, I HAVE BEEN TOO CARELESS ...
DOC
HELLO RYO? IT'S ME.
BRAGGING
Dog

...
MIKI'S GONE MISSING ...
BUT SHE'S SO WEAK... WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE?
WITH THAT INJURY, SHE SHOULDN'T BE STAYING THERE ALONE. I'LL GO BRING HER BACK.
TO HER HOME, OF COURSE!
THE PLACE WHERE HER MOTHER'S WARMTH CAN BE FOUND

BE CAREFUL OF YOUR STEPS, AND FOLLOW ME.
FROM HERE WE CAN GET INTO THE UNDERGROUND CITY RUINS?
WAIT ...!
HOW... AM I SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW YOU...?
DON'T FORCE YOURSELF, UMIBOZU ...
...
...

...
THEY'RE JUST BRINGING HER BACK, THERE'S NO NEED TO BRING EVERYBODY, RIGHT? LET'S JUST WAIT AT THE STORE FOR THEM.

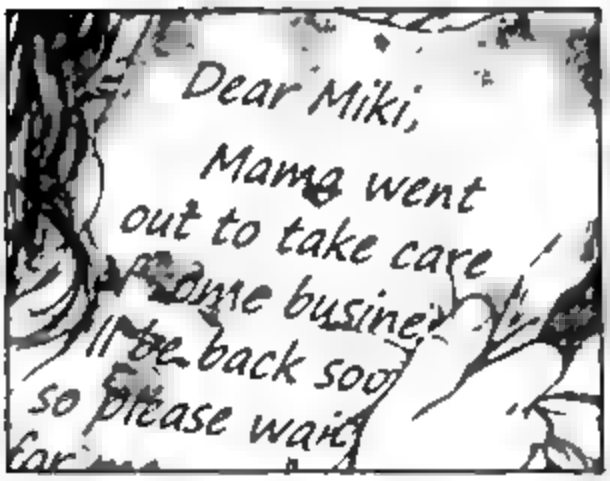

I'LL GO GET MY BAZOOKA
FALCON ?

LET GO OF ME! DON'T STOP ME!
DON'T MAKE TROUBLE, CALM DOWN!

I'M JUST GOING TO MAKE THE ENTRANCE A BIT BIGGER, IS ALL

...

...
SAEKO, OVER THERE.
HERE SHE IS.
ALL OF HERSELF!
SHE LIVES HERE.
...
WHAT'S WRONG? LET'S HURRY UP AND TAKE HER.


Dear Miki,
Mama went
out to take care
some busine
I'll be back soo
so please wait

...

I JUST CAN'T TAKE HER AWAY FROM HERE...
RYO .. SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU.

...

BUT WILL YOU LET ME HANDLE THIS?
ん…?
…
RYO !?
…
COME IN
LET KAORI TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE

MAMA
!?
SORRY FOR CONFUSING YOU.

...
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M SHANIN.
ARE YOU GONNA TAKE ME BACK TO THE CLINIC?
I JUST CAME TO BRING YOU SOMETHING YOU FORGOT.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU LIE DOWN? YOU'RE INJURED, YOU KNOW. YOUR BODY NEEDS REST.
SHANIN... I KNOW, YOU WERE TOGETHER WITH SAEKO. AND AT THE CLINIC...
...

...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE RIGHT HERE WITH YOU.

I'M... KAORI ... SHANIN'S MAMA.
MAMA ...?
AUNTIE, WHO ARE YOU?
YOU CAN SEE ME?
ｺｸﾘ

この物語はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・
事件等には、いっさい関係ありません。

BUNCH COMICS

エンジェル・ハート⑬

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〒160-0004 東京都武蔵野市吉祥寺本町1-31-11
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TRANSLATOR: KANGXI
EDITOR: DRPEPPERPRO
PROOFREADER: DRPEPPERPRO
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